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NEARBY

BPL cards with no e-KYC to be suspended

BENGALURU

Five years after the e-KYC was made mandatory for all BPL card beneficiaries, the State government is set to keep about 22 lakh BPL cards under suspension.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

SSLC results to be out today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Results of the SSLC examination will be announced on Thursday at 12.30 p.m.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh will announce the results. The results will be uploaded on the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board website www.kseeb.kar.nic.in and on https://karresults.nic.in/

Students will receive messages on their registered mobile numbers. This year, 8.73 lakh candidates appeared for the exam.

Helpline

For the first time, Karnataka opened a mental health tele-helpline on Wednesday for students who are in distress as they await the results. Health Minister K. Sudhakar said whether they get the results they expected or not, one must not be disheartened as these results are not the end, beginning or the decider of their life. "It is just an outcome of one's academic life," he said. Students who are feeling low, distressed, anxious, depressed or scared have been encouraged to call the helpline Ph.: 080-46110007.

Supreme Court frees Perarivalan

It invokes extraordinary powers under Article 142, also holds Governor bound by Cabinet advice

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution and ordered the release of A.G. Perarivalan in former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, in its judgment, took into consideration Perarivalan's long incarceration for over 30 years to order his release. Perarivalan is currently on bail. The apex court had commuted his death penalty to life sentence for murder in 2014.

The court held that the Tamil Nadu Council of Ministers' advice on September 9, 2018 to pardon Perarivalan was binding on the Governor under Article 161 (Governor's power of clemency) of the Constitution. The Governor had no business forwarding the pardon plea to the President after sitting on it for years together.

Non-exercise of power

"The advice of the State Cabinet is binding on the Governor in matters relating to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161. No provision under the Constitution has been pointed out to us nor any satisfactory response tendered as to the source of the Governor's power to refer a recommendation made by the State Cabinet to the President of India. In the instant case, the Governor ought not to have sent the recommendation made by the State Cabinet to the President. Such action is contrary to the constitutional scheme," the Supreme Court held.

It said the Governor's delay to decide Perarivalan's pardon for more than two years has compelled the court to employ its constitutional powers under Article 142 to do justice to Perarivalan.

After all, the court said, a Governor's non-exercise of power under Article 161 of the Constitution was not immune from judicial review.

"Taking into account Perarivalan's prolonged period of incarceration, his satisfactory conduct in jail as well as during parole, chronic ailments from his medical records, his educational qualifications acquired during incarceration and the pendency of his petition under Article 161 for two-and-a-half years after the recommendation of the State Cabinet, we do not consider it fit to remand the matter for the Governor's consideration. In exercise of our power under Article 142 of the Constitution, we direct that he is deemed to have served the sentence... Perarivalan, who is already on bail, is set at liberty forthwith. His bail bonds are cancelled," the court ordered.

Centre's stand rejected

The Court dismissed the Centre's argument that the President exclusively, and not the Governor, had the power to grant pardon in a case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code. The court had said that such a contention would render Article 161 a "dead-letter" and create an extraordinary situation whereby pardons granted by Governors in murder cases for the past 70 years would be rendered invalid.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for Tamil Nadu, had argued that the prospect of the court waiting for the President's decision on the mercy plea, as put forward by the Centre, was "completely absurd". Mr. Dwivedi, along with Tamil Nadu Additional Attorney-General Amit Anand Tiwari and advocate Joseph Aristotle, had said federalism would go for a toss if that was allowed by the court.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 9

Free at last: A.G. Perarivalan, one of the life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case seen with his mother, Arputham Ammal, and others, after the Supreme Court ordered his release. ● C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

A long path | A brief timeline of Perarivalan's over 30-year-long incarceration:

- **June 11, 1991:** CBI arrests 19-year-old Perarivalan
- **Jan. 28, 1998:** A TADA court sentences 26 accused to death, including Perarivalan, in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case
- **Aug. 26, 2011:** Execution of Santhan, Murugan and Perarivalan fixed for Sept. 9, 2011
- **Feb. 18, 2014:** SC commutes the death sentence on grounds of delay in disposing of their mercy pleas
- **Feb. 19, 2014:** Tamil Nadu Cabinet decides to immediately release Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Nalini, Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran
- **Dec. 2, 2015:** SC says Centre will decide whether the convicts will be released
- **Nov. 14, 2017:** A former CBI officer makes a sworn statement that the CBI omitted a part of Perarivalan's confession
- **Jan. 23, 2018:** A three-judge Bench of the SC gives the Centre three months to decide on his release
- **June 15, 2018:** The Centre rejects T.N. govt.'s request
- **Sept. 9, 2018:** T.N. govt. decides to recommend to Governor the release of all convicts
- **May 18, 2022:** Supreme Court invokes its extraordinary powers to release Perarivalan

Stalin hails court's ruling

Hailing the verdict as a victory for State autonomy, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the government would go through the verdict and consult legal experts and take steps for releasing the other six life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Later, Perarivalan and mother Arputham Ammal met Mr. Stalin and thanked him for the support. ▸ PAGE 5

'My mother kept me going'

"Let me breathe the fresh air," said Perarivalan, when asked about his future plans. "My mother's sacrifice and struggle kept me going for 31 years. Initially, she faced insults and humiliation... Both of us knew the truth and believed in justice. My parents struggled a lot and sacrificed so much. I am happy that I have been released during their lifetime," he said. ▸ PAGE 5

Centre to blame: Cong.

The country is saddened and disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision to release A.G. Perarivalan, the Congress said on Wednesday. Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the inaction by the Governor and the President of India, who is advised the Union Council of Minister, paved the way for the release of the convict. ▸ PAGE 9

SC allows OBC quota for M.P. local body polls

SEC told to notify the poll programme

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the implementation of reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in local body elections to be held in Madhya Pradesh. The Court permitted the State Election Commission to notify the programme for the local bodies keeping in mind the delimitation notification and the report submitted by the Backward Classes Commission.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar modified the court's May 10 order directing the State Election Commission to notify the election programme for over 20,000 urban and panchayat local bodies in the State within two weeks, without waiting for the completion of the 'triple test' exercise and further delimitation prior to the polls.

> **We permit the State of Madhya Pradesh to notify the reservation pattern local body-wise to be adhered to by the State Election Commission within one week**
> SUPREME COURT

However, an application to modify the court order was filed shortly thereafter. It said the Backward Classes Commission had submitted a revised report that satisfied the triple test for reservation for OBCs and gave a break-up of the reservation local body-wise.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Hardik Patel hits out at Congress, calls it quits

'Party leadership lacks seriousness'

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

In a major setback to the Opposition party in Gujarat, working president of the Gujarat Congress Hardik Patel resigned from the primary membership of the party on Wednesday.

In a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the Patidar leader said it had become difficult to remain in the party when its top leadership "lacked seriousness to fight for the people".

Amid speculation that he may join the BJP ahead of the Assembly polls, the 28-year-old praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has also hailed the BJP leadership, calling it decisive.

Hardik Patel

"Over the last three years, I have found that the Congress leadership has been reduced to merely opposing everything, whereas the people seek an alternative that thinks for their future and is capable of taking India ahead," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Text on Narayana Guru removed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The controversy over revised textbooks in Karnataka continues, with portions of text related to social reformers, Narayana Guru and Periyar, removed from the new social science textbook of Class X.

Meanwhile, Class X Kannada syllabus, which now has the speech of RSS founder K.B. Hedgewar added to it, will no longer have prose and poetry by progressive writers including B.T. Lalita Naik, L. Basavaraju, Aravind Malagatti and K. Neela among others.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 3

Torrential rain claims six lives in Karnataka

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

Six people, three of them in Bengaluru, lost their lives in separate incidents as heavy rain wreaked havoc across Karnataka on Tuesday.

Two contract labourers died while laying water pipes for a residential layout in Jnana Bharathi, while another labourer slipped from a 40 ft. high rooftop of a building in Sompura industrial layout in Dobbespet.

The two labourers, Ankit Kumar Sahani, 23, from Bihar, and Dev Bharath Kushwaha, 37, from Uttar Pradesh, were allegedly forced to work overtime while it was raining and drowned in the pipe even as their colleague, Triloki, made futile attempts to pull them out. Triloki, the complainant, also alleged that despite informing the project manager, the site engineer and the labour contractor, they came to the site only the next day to pump out water and pull out the bodies.

The spot where two labourers drowned in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ● K. MURALI KUMAR

The police arrested Shiva Kumar, project manager; Harish Reddy, site engineer; Manoj Yadav, labour contractor; and Narasimharaju, H.R. Manager of Mega Engineering and Infrastructure Estate (MEIL) charging them under causing death by negligence.

Triloki told the police that he, along with eight others, were laying pipes near Ullal lake for the Cauvery fifth stage work by MEIL. The accused asked Triloki, Ankit, and Dev Bharath to stay back to finish wielding work till 9 p.m., and asked the others to go home.

Their request to finish the work the next day citing bad weather went in vain, Triloki alleged. The opening of the 6 ft. deep pipe was as narrow as 2 ft. While they were wielding, rain water began flooding the pipe, and they drowned.

A labourer, Sakanna, 54, working for Organic Aromatic Chemicals, died after he slipped and fell from a height of 40 ft. He had gone up to clean the rooftop sheets and clear the stagnant water. The Dabaspete police have registered a case of causing death by negligence against the factory owner.

Shivakumar, 28, died after a school wall, beside which he had taken shelter, collapsed on him at Rangenahalli in Hassan on Wednesday. Two farmers, one in Bidar and another in Yadgir, died when they were struck by lightning.

MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 2

Ethanol blend in petrol to be raised to 20% in 3 years

Cabinet advances deadline for fuel firms by 5 years via amendment to National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025. The policy to introduce 20% ethanol in petrol will take effect from April 1, 2023.

A statement from the government said the new policy would allow more feed stock for producing biofuel and foster the development of indigenous technologies.

A 2021 report by the NITI Aayog said that "immense benefits" could accrue to the country by 20% ethanol blending by 2025, such as saving ₹30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year, increased energy security, lowered carbon emissions, better air quality, self-reliance, better use of damaged foodgrains, increased farmers' incomes and investment opportunities.

The green route: A NITI Aayog reports says ethanol-blended petrol will cut emissions and the dependence on imports. ● PTI

India achieved 9.45% ethanol blending as on March 13, 2022, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Centre projects that this will reach 10% by the end of financial year 2022. The government first announced its plans of advancing the 20% blending target in December 2020.

Impact on vehicles

A 10% blending of petrol does not require major changes to engines but a 20% blend could require some changes and may even drive up the prices of vehicles.

A greater percentage of blending could also mean more land being diverted for water-intensive crops such as sugar cane, which the government currently subsidises.

The NITI Aayog projects an ethanol demand of 10.16 billion litres by 2025. The current ethanol production capacity in India of 4.26 billion litres derives from molasses-based distilleries, and 2.58 billion litres from grain-based distilleries. This is expected to expand to 7.6 billion litres and 7.4 billion litres respectively, and will require six million tonnes of sugar and 16.5 million tonnes of grains per annum by 2025.

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THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

New low

16 Amount in paise by which rupee declined to close at its fresh lifetime low of 77.60 against the U.S. dollar amid unabated foreign fund outflows and a stronger greenback in overseas markets. Crude oil prices also surged by over 1% , which weighed on the rupee. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.3% higher at 103.59. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded shares worth ₹2,192.44 crore, as per stock exchange data. PTI

Ditching Russia's energy

300 In billion euros, the package proposed by the European Union's executive arm to abandon Russian energy amid the Kremlin's war in Ukraine. The European Commission's investment initiative is meant to help the 27 EU countries start weaning themselves off Russian fossil fuels this year. The goal is to deprive Russia, the EU's main supplier of oil, natural gas and coal, of tens of billions in revenue and strengthen EU climate policies. An EU ban on coal from Russia is due to start in August. AP

Global food crisis

12 In billion, the additional funding announced by the World Bank to address the global food security crisis, bringing the total to $30 billion. Amid the growing shortages exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a key grain producer, the new funding will finance projects over the next 15 months to boost food and fertilizer production and support vulnerable households and producers. The war on Ukraine and international economic sanctions on Moscow have disrupted supplies of wheat and other food supplies. AFP

Three decade high

6.8 In percentage, Canada's inflation in April — the highest since January 1991 — compared to a year ago, driven mainly by higher food and housing costs. This marked a small increase from the previous month, but analysts forecast prices will continue rising and, along with them, the central bank's key lending rates to try to counter inflation. Statistics Canada blamed the spillover effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine for rising prices for energy, commodities, and food. Both Russia and Ukraine are major wheat exporters. AFP

Selling stakes

690 In ₹ crore, the amount for which Patanjali Ayurved Ltd will sell its food retail business to group firm Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd as part of its strategy to focus on non-food, traditional medicine, and wellness business. Patanjali Ayurved Ltd had acquired Ruchi Soya through an insolvency process. Ruchi Soya recently raised ₹4,300 crore through its follow-on public offer. The board also approved the change in the company's name from 'Ruchi Soya Industries Limited' to 'Patanjali Foods Limited." PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The confusion over the status of the Assam NRC

Why are the members of the Foreigners Tribunals and the State Coordinator of the National Register of Citizens at loggerheads?

THE GIST

- A member of one of Assam's Foreigners' Tribunals has written to Hitesh Dev Sarma, the State Coordinator of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), asking him to stop interfering in the lawful functioning of the tribunals. This letter was in response to Mr. Sarma's April 18 letter to all the FT members not to treat the NRC as "final".
- The complete NRC draft was published on August 31, 2019. This draft excluded 19.06-lakh out of the 3.3 crore people who had applied for inclusion.
- In 2021, Mr. Sarma submitted an affidavit at the Gauhati High Court, referring to the August 2019 NRC as a "supplementary list" and not the "final NRC" and sought a re-verification. An FT member, choosing to be anonymous, insisted that the NRC published in accordance with relevant clauses of the Citizenship Rules of 2003, was final.

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: A member of one of Assam's functional 100 Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) had on May 10 written to Hitesh Dev Sarma, the State Coordinator of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), asking him to stop interfering in the lawful functioning of the tribunals. This letter was in response to Mr. Sarma's April 18 letter to all the FT members not to treat the NRC as "final" while judging the nationality of a person suspected to be a non-citizen.

What is the NRC and when did it start?
The NRC was born out of independent India's first census in 1951, entailing the transfer of data from the Census slips. All States were mandated to compile an NRC but it was done only in Assam. The intention behind such an exercise in Assam was to prepare a village-based inventory of residents in view of the resistance from the State – then undivided – to house post-Partition refugees. The fear of the indigenous people of being outnumbered by "illegal immigrants" during and after the 1971 Bangladesh War led to the Assam Agitation from 1979 to 1985. The demand for updating the 1951 NRC to eject foreigners from Assam was raised during the agitation.

The agitation ended with the signing of the Assam Accord in August 1985. The accord prescribed March 24, 1971, the eve of the Bangladesh War, as the cut-off date for detecting, detaining and deporting foreigners. This date was incorporated in the NRC updating exercise that began in 2014 under the supervision of the Supreme Court. People listed in the 1951 NRC and their descendants had a comparatively smooth inclusion in the complete NRC draft published on August 31, 2019. This draft excluded 19.06-lakh out of the 3.3 crore people who had applied for inclusion.

What was the trigger of the debate over its status?
In 2021, Mr. Sarma submitted an affidavit at the Gauhati High Court, referring to the August 2019 NRC as a "supplementary list" and not the "final NRC" and sought a re-verification. In September that year, an FT member in southern Assam's Karimganj district declared a doubtful migrant as Indian while observing that members of his family figured in the August 2019 list referred to as the "final NRC". The list was also being referred to as final at various fora. On April 18, Mr. Sarma wrote to the FTs asking them not to depend on the NRC to adjudicate cases of citizenship. "It has been observed that while disposing of FT cases, various documents relating to NRC are being called from the District Registrar of Citizens Registration (Deputy Commissioner) and the State Coordinator, NRC. Assam. In this regard, I am to inform you that the Final NRC is yet to be published by the Registrar General of Citizens Registration," he wrote. He also said that the NRC was erroneous due to wrong data entry and faulty process adopted in the updating exercise, as mentioned in the interlocutory application he had submitted before the Supreme Court, which is yet to hear the matter.

An FT member, choosing to be anonymous, insisted in his reply to Mr. Sarma on May 10 that the NRC published in accordance with relevant clauses of the Citizenship Rules of 2003, was final. The member also cited the official website where the NRC is mentioned as final and an August 2019 press communique by his predecessor, Prateek Hajela, "clearly mentioning" that the NRC was final. "The State Coordinator cannot propagate his wrong understanding of law, rules, notifications and orders of the Supreme Court about the finality of NRC.... he should withdraw his letter and stop interfering in the lawful functioning of the Foreigners' Tribunals which is beyond your jurisdiction and limits of power," the FT member said. Judges, advocates and bureaucrats with judicial experience are appointed as members of the quasi-judicial body under the Foreigners' Tribunal Act, 1941, and Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964.

What, then, is the status of the NRC?
According to the State Coordinator, only the office of the Registrar General of India has the authority to publish the final NRC and a notification in this regard is yet to be issued. But the FT members, instead of looking at cases of people declared foreigners independently of the NRC, have been passing judgments by viewing the NRC as final, he said adding that Mr. Hajela's statement was "misleading". NRC officials also pointed out that the updating exercise still has some stages to go.

The next stage is the issuance of a rejection slip to each of the 19.06 lakh people excluded from the draft NRC. After receiving such a slip with an explanation of why he or she has been left out of the NRC, a person would have to approach the FT concerned within 120 days with documents to prove his or her citizenship. The FT would then adjudge the person as a 'citizen' or 'foreigner' for inclusion or rejection in the NRC.

What is the stand of the Assam government on the NRC?
The BJP-led Assam government has stuck to its stand that the NRC was erroneous. They have said that at least 20% of the enlisted names in districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in the remaining districts need re-verification. The government has not accepted the list as final and has decided to approach the Supreme Court for a "corrected" NRC. The government, however, has decided to push for unfreezing the biometrics of 21 lakh people, collected during the updating exercise, to enable them to get Aadhaar cards, which can be locked again if a person is eventually marked as a non-citizen.

Proof of paper: A woman along with her baby wait to submit her National Register of Citizens (NRC) form in the Morigaon district of Assam on August 13, 2018. • FILE PHOTO

EXPLAINER

India's vulnerability to drought

What does the recent Drought in Numbers report tell us? How is the United Nations planning to combat the effects of such dry spells?

PRIYALI PRAKASH

The story so far: A United Nations report has revealed that many parts of India fall under the list of regions that are vulnerable to drought globally. The report also stated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts in the country. Globally, droughts in the same period caused economic losses of approximately $124 billion.

These and other global findings centred on drought were collated in the Drought in Numbers, 2022 report presented by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

• FILE PHOTO

What is the Drought in Numbers report?
The Drought in Numbers report is a collection of data on the effects of droughts on our ecosystem and how they can be mitigated through efficient planning for the future. The report also helps inform negotiations surrounding key decisions by the UNCCD's 197 member parties at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15), currently underway in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Drought, land restoration, and related aspects such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top considerations at COP15.

The number and duration of droughts around the world has increased by an alarming 29% since 2000.

UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw said that there has been "an upward trajectory in the duration of droughts and the severity of impacts, not only affecting human societies but also the ecological systems upon which the survival of all life depends, including that of our own species," .

What is COP15?
UNCCD's COP15 focuses on desertification, land degradation, and drought, with the theme for the conference being "Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity." The conference has brought together government representatives, private sector members, and civil society stakeholders to ensure that land continues to benefit present and future generations.

What does the report entail?
According to World Bank estimates, drought conditions can force up to 216 million people to migrate by 2050. Other factors at play along with drought could be water scarcity, declining crop productivity, rise in sea levels, and overpopulation.

Weather, climate and water hazards have accounted for 50% of all disasters and 45% of all reported deaths since 1970, the World Meteorological Organisation data has revealed. Nine in ten of these deaths have occurred in developing countries.

Between 2020 and 2022, 23 countries have faced drought emergencies. These are Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Pakistan, the U.S., and Zambia. According to the report, climate change alone will cause 129 countries to experience an increase in drought exposure in the next few decades.

More than a billion people around the world were affected by drought in 2000-19, making it the second-worst disaster after flooding. Africa was the worst hit, with 134 droughts, of which 70 occurred in East Africa. The World Health Organization has noted that globally, approximately 55 million people are directly affected by droughts annually, making it the most serious hazard to livestock and crops in almost every part of the world.

The impact of drought is, however, not uniform across genders. Research shows that women and girls in emerging and developing countries suffer more in terms of education levels, nutrition, health, sanitation, and safety as a result of droughts.

The burden of water collection also disproportionately falls on women (72%) and girls (9%). The report notes that they may spend up to 40% of their caloric intake fetching water.

In 2022, over 2.3 billion people are facing water stress. Almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts.

What are the environmental aspects?
According to the report, if predictions are correct and global warming reaches 3°C by 2100, drought losses could be five times higher than today's levels. The largest increase in drought losses is projected in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic regions of Europe.

Australia's megadrought in 2019-2020 contributed to "megafires" resulting in one of the most extensive losses of habitat for threatened species. About three billion animals were killed or displaced in the Australian wildfires. On a related note, 84% of all terrestrial ecosystems are threatened by changing and intensifying wildfires.

According to a 2017 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the percentage of plants affected by drought has more than doubled in the last 40 years. Around 12 million hectares of land are lost each year due to drought and desertification.

THE GIST

- The Drought in Numbers report is a collection of data on the effects of droughts on our ecosystem and how they can be mitigated through efficient planning for the future.
- The report has revealed that many parts of India fall under the list of regions that are vulnerable to drought globally. It also stated that India's GDP reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts in the country.
- According to a 2017 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the percentage of plants affected by drought has more than doubled in the last 40 years.

Where are the solutions, ask residents

'Officials give assurances during the monsoon, but nothing gets implemented'

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

The downpour on Tuesday night brought misery to many low-lying areas in the city as roads were severely inundated and many houses were flooded with water up to 3 feet high.

Among the worst-affected places were Mysuru Road and surrounding areas such as Nayandahalli, Rajarajeshwarinagar, and Hosakerehalli. At some of these places, water had not completely receded even by Wednesday afternoon.

As water entered houses in low-lying areas, residents had to struggle even for basic things, like food and water, on Tuesday night. While they could not cook at home, even food-delivery apps stopped taking orders once the rainfall intensified.

"We could not even use the washrooms as sewage came through the drains," a resident from near Lalbagh said.

The continuous rain also meant long power cuts which left people with no charge in their phones to coordinate for water clearance and other problems in many areas.

Residents and small business owners in low-lying areas in Ideal Homes, BHEL Layout, and Gokula Layout were spending their morning hours emptying water out of their buildings.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel pumping out water from the basement of an apartment in Sanjaynagar on Wednesday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Twilight Tandoor restaurant in BHEL Layout had to close down at 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday as up to 2 feet of water entered, the employees said. "From the morning, we have been clearing this rainwater. If it rains again, we do not know what to do," a housekeeping staff said on Wednesday.

At 'Giddu's garage', a popular car service centre in R.R. Nagar, a tired Giddu explained how he has to now bear the repair costs of seven to eight cars which sank yesterday as the wall of his garage collapsed.

There were also some apartment complexes where the parking lots were inundated on Tuesday night, residents reported. Many roads in R.R. Nagar were slushy, making it difficult for the pedestrians to walk on Wednesday.

BESCOM vans were also moving around in the area to take care of the damage from the previous night. According to the power utility, its helpline number 1912 received 13,734 calls on Tuesday night and 13,165 were pertaining to power cuts. In Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone (BMAZ), 107 feeders were affected.

Although water had receded in the Nayandahalli junction by morning, a part of the road had caved in near one of the metro pillars.

"On Tuesday night, cars were actually floating on this very same road. I had to wait for more than an hour to reach the destination," said a cab driver on Mysuru Road.

The motorists had to carefully maneuver on the roads leading to Hosakerehalli from R.R. Nagar as they were filled with huge potholes and water-logged on Wednesday.

The Pramod Layout near PES University was another area which was badly affected. "This has become a monthly occurrence now. Whenever there is heavy rain, the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Cross Roads here face the same problems. BBMP officials come here and pump water out and go on the next day. But they do nothing to avoid the problem for next time. Sometimes sewage water also comes in through chambers. Water enters our compounds and our vehicles get submerged. That is why as soon as rain gained momentum, we shifted our vehicles to higher level roads nearby," said Krishnappa, a resident.

Resident welfare associations from across the city were furious at the civic administration in the city for not coming up with a long-term solution to these problems.

Representatives of HSR Layout, Koramangala, HRBR Layout, Hennur, and Garuthman Park had the same complaints and demands.

"During the monsoon, the BBMP officials and politicians make spot visits and give assurances, but throughout the year, they stay only as assurances and nothing gets implemented," said a representative.

Residents wade through a flooded street after heavy overnight rain, at Horamavu on Wednesday. • PTI

Citizens' pain: Heavy rain wreaks havoc in Bengaluru

Water takes hours to recede from roads; almost all low-lying areas flooded

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

The heavy rain that lashed the city on Tuesday night left most low-lying areas and even key arterial roads inundated, throwing life out of gear. It was only by Wednesday evening that water on the roads receded or was pumped out, which essentially meant traffic snarls through the day.

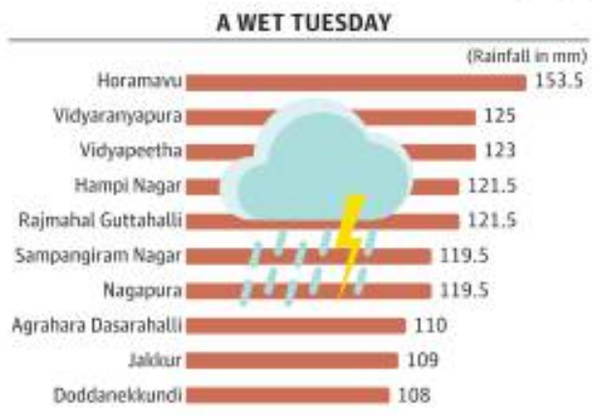
The retention wall of Vrishabhavathi valley on Mysuru Road breached in some locations leading to flooding. Many SWDs overflowed and flooded streets.

With water levels not receding even the next day, civic and fire officials had to deploy motors to pump out water.

Sources in the Fire and Emergency Services said they had deployed men and machinery at over 40 locations, including Basava Layout, Horamavu, Pai Layout, and Doddanekkundi Road to pump water out from the streets and basements.

"The rate at which the water receded has been very slow, as most stormwater drains are full, their retention capacity reduced, and the water is not flowing into them. At many places, works are under way in the drains, blocking entry points," explained a senior fire official.

Similar was the situation on even many TenderSURE roads, like the UB City street that saw almost waist-level water. Many of the recently done Smart City roads also saw severe waterlogging.



'Run-off'

B.S. Prahlad, Chief Engineer (Road and Infrastructure), said the water on the streets was not owing to flooding but was "run-off" due to the downpour.

"The time taken for the run-off water to recede into drains is technically called reaction time. The reaction time is prolonged due to various reasons, including the amount of run-off, the time window in which the rain lashed the particular point, and the avenues for the water to recede. All factors contributed to the longer reaction time," he said.

"Any city, whatever the quality of its infrastructure, will have run-off water on the streets during a downpour. Concretisation of the city has crossed over 94% surface area, leaving little scope for the water to seep into the ground. Like in cities such as Tokyo, we need to create water retention and recharge facilities on the road to avoid a flood even to the drains, as they are not created for such extreme events. We need to create water recharge wells by the streets, so that we capture the rain water, avoid flooding, and also recharge the underground water table," Mr. Prahlad added.

Even those areas that had never seen inundation before had knee-deep stagnant water.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Girinath said more than the quantum of rainfall, it was rain in a shorter duration led to widespread damage. "Moreover, these are pre-monsoon showers. Drain works are going on in most parts of the city in preparation of monsoon. We have set a deadline of June 1 for them to clear drains and vacate. So the rain led to overflowing drains in some places," he said.

More rain expected over next two days

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

More heavy rain is expected over the next two days. The India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert (extremely heavy rainfall) for the coastal districts and Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Shivamogga districts for Thursday and an yellow alert (heavy rainfall) for many districts for the next two days. IMD has forecast isolated heavy rains/thundershowers in the city over the next two days.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he had instructed officials across the State to take adequate precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of heavy rain.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai visiting a rain-affected area on Wednesday.

Bommai and Ministers draw flak

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The video of a man wading through chest-deep water at the flooded Nayandahalli junction on Tuesday night, mockingly thanking Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for a 'new swimming pool' has gone viral. In the video, he asks Mr. Bommai to join him in swimming at the flooded junction.

This video, perhaps, best captured people's anger at the State government over the rain-induced havoc in the city on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the absence of an elected council in the civic body, the State government, particularly the seven Ministers from the city and the Chief Minister who holds charge of the city, drew a lot of flak.

What riled most was that in many place, civic officials did not turn up in the night to help them, but came only on Wednesday morning. Speaking to mediapersons, many expressed anger at the government and Ministers who had not come to help them. This prompted many Ministers, including the Chief Minister, to step outside their homes and visit rain-affected areas in the city.

Mr. Bommai visited rain-affected areas in Hosakerehalli, Padmanabha Nagar, and Ideal Homes Layout at R.R. Nagar with Ministers and local MLAs R. Ashok and N. Munirathna, while returning from a scheduled event – inauguration of a temple festival in Padmanabha Nagar.

However, the stopovers were brief, and he drew flak for that too.

Byrathi Basavaraj, K.R. Puram MLA, visited Sai Layout in Horamavu, which received the highest rainfall of 153.5 mm on Tuesday night. He encountered angry residents, who were upset that no civic official had turned up till then.

"I agree that civic officials did not come last night. But they have been working from Wednesday early morning. I have also come now," he said in a bid to pacify them.

D.S. Rajashekhar, a civic activist from Bengaluru Praja Vedike, said residents of the city were effectively orphaned. "The MLAs have taken over the city and are milking it for the resources it offers, but don't seem to care for its residents. A councillor is the most accessible representative. Now, even that solace is not available," he said.

CM: ₹5 lakh compensation for those killed in rain

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who holds charge of Bengaluru, announced that families living in each of the homes across the city that were flooded will be provided compensation of ₹25,000 and immediate arrangements for alternative places to stay, food, and other basic facilities. He also announced compensation of ₹5 lakh for the two labourers killed while working on the Cauvery V Stage project pipeline at Ullal in the western part of Bengaluru.

Responding to criticism of widespread damage in Bengaluru, he said the only solution to the rain and flooding problem in the city was to revamp the entire stormwater drain (SWD) infrastructure.

"We have already earmarked ₹1,600 crore for SWD works. I have instructed officers to ruthlessly clear all bottlenecks. Of the 800+ km of the drain network, earlier governments had revamped around 400 km, and we have taken up the remaining work. We have also simultaneously taken up work on secondary and tertiary drains in the city this year. The situation would be far better next year. However, many layouts and apartments have come up on lake beds and wetlands in Bengaluru, which have to be tackled differently. We are looking into that as well," he said.

Road to KIA flooded; people miss flights

Traffic police said that the water level was at least four feet high

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Flooding on the national highway leading to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) resulted in many missing their flights on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A low-lying section of the national highway near the Indian Air Force base at Yelahanka was inundated following heavy overnight rain on Tuesday.

Travellers heading to the airport got stuck on the highway (Ballari Road) and could not reach the KIA on time to board their flights.

Traffic police said that the water level was at least four feet high, making it impossible to navigate the stretch.

At night, a bus broke down while crossing the stretch, resulting in the road getting blocked. The pile-up of traffic stretched for over a kilometre.

Saurav Sharma, who was stuck in the traffic for close to an hour, said, "I went to drop my family members at the airport. I was stuck for close to an hour. The traffic was not moving at all. This is pathetic. Road users are getting a raw deal despite paying a hefty toll fee. It is very shameful on the part of the NHAI that they are unable to fix the water-logging problem and causing inconvenience to the public".

Travellers heading to the airport got stuck on Ballari Road. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Every day, thousands of passengers use the highway to reach the airport.

Chandrashekar, another passenger, said, "The traffic pile-up stretched from the flyover opposite BSF headquarters to the IAF base. It was really frustrating. Some taxi drivers took a left turn near BSF headquarters and used the service road to reach the other end of the road. They drive in the opposite direction (to the traffic) as their customers were getting late".

Some passengers got down from the taxi and boarded Vayu Vajra services of the BMTC to reach the airport as smaller vehicles could not cross the flooded area.

People vented their ire on social media.

Biswajeet Rana said he missed his flight due to the flooding. He said a passenger travelling by train from Majestic to Chennai would reach his destination faster than a person heading to Bengaluru airport from home.

A police personnel manning traffic near the flooded area said, "I have not moved from here since Tuesday night. Flooding is common here during rains, but the NHAI has not done anything to fix the problem. A bus broke down while crossing the flooded area. There is no service road near the IAF base, and all the vehicles have to take the main lane. This has resulted in a pile-up of vehicles".

It was not just flyers who were at the receiving end. Students going to colleges also missed their classes due to the traffic jam.

BIAL, which operates KIA, released an advisory stating that passengers heading to the airport might face slow-moving traffic due to water-logging and should plan their travel accordingly. For assistance, flyers can reach 080-22012001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **SRI. B.A.SHIVA KUMAR** S/o Late Sri B.V.Anjinappa, aged about 38 years, R/at Opp: to Govt. School, Belathuru, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560 067, has lost the Original Sale Deed Dated 17/04/2006 bearing Registration No.KRI-1-01685-2006-07, Book No.1, CD No.KRID206 dated 17/04/2006 registered in the office of Sub-Registrar K.R.Puram, Bangalore City. But in spite of best effort made by him, he could not trace out the same. In this regard he lodged a complaint before Commissioner of police through E-Lost on 18/05/2022. The said document is belongs to Property bearing in Site No.8, Khathe No.19/2, Property No.192, situated at **Kumbena Agrahara Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru,** now comes under BBMP, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, **total 1200 Sq. Ft.** My client further instruct that, he is the absolute owner of the said property and if anybody found the above document or in illegal possession of the same, my client is not responsible, and may be handover the same to the above address and bounded as follows:

East by - Property belongs to Sri. Manjunath
West by - Property belongs to Smt.Ambika
North by - 20 Feet Road
South by - Property belongs to Sri.Poojappa.

Ullas M. Advocate,
#51, 4th 'B' Main, Chandana Layout, Srigandhakaval, Bangalore-91. M: 8970228018

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public who are having any interest or authority is informed by this Public Notice that, my client intends to purchase the under mentioned schedule property from **Sri TEJ .Y.** S/o Sri. Yogesh Dharasulehal Engineer.

Any person having any claim, right or interest on the schedule property more fully Described below may lodge written objection/s to the under signed Advocate along with Documentary Proof within **07 days** from the date of this publication, if no objection in what so ever nature is received, my client presume that there is no claim from any body and my client shall proceed with completion of the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property bearing **Site No.12/2**, situated at **Kasthurbanagar, Aswathkatte Road, Mysore Road, Bangalore,** Now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Old Ward No.45, New Ward No.141 (Azad Nagar Ward) Municipal No. 12/3-11, PID No 45-37-12/3-11 Situated at Aswathkatte Road Kasthurbanagar, Bangalore, East to West 77 feet and North to South 49 feet, totally measuring 3773 square feet, out of 4124.89 square feet, consisting with 1500 square feet ACC Sheet house only sold the property, and the same is bounded on the:

East by : Private Property, West by : Road, North by : Property belongs to Jitendra Dhana Sukla/ Engineer, South by : Remaining property of same Municipal No. 12/3-11.

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Advocate,
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at
+91 9899919995
karan-arora@live.com
for more details.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANDHYARANI Baburao Kumbhar, R/at Vill-Kurli, Kurli(P), Tah:Chikodi, Dist: Belgaum, Karnataka-591241 have changed my name to Sandhyarani Tushar Kumbhar vide Affidavit dated 14.02.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMRUTA Chandrakant Patil, R/at Vill: Soundalga, Post: Soundalga, Taq: Chikkodi, Dist: Belgaum, Karnataka - 591241 have changde my name to Amruta Navnath Shevale vide Affidavit dated 08.03.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

I, MALLALKAR Saubai Appasaheb, R/at Vill: Irali, Post: Irali, Taq: Kavathe Mahankal, Dist: Sangli, State: Maharashtra - 416405 have changde my name to Mane Saubai Manesh vide Affidavit dated 08.03.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

I, HADPE Sarla Pandharinath, R/at Village: Bahal, Post: Bahal, Teh: Chalisgaon, Dist: Jalgaon, State: Maharashtra, Pin Code:424106 have changed my name to Dhangar Sarla Somnath vide Affidavit dated 07.05.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bangalore.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, ARULSELVI R have changed my name from ARUTCHELVI R to ARULSELVI R, and my correct Date of birth is 29/12/1969, sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K.

THE HINDU
Text & Context

TOOLBOX

Creating our own password manager

How to manage our very many passwords using the bash commandline and the OpenSSL utility

PRABODH C.P.

These days with the internet being a part of our everyday lives or in other terms with us increasingly being part of the virtual world, the reliance on computers and internet has increased. There is a surge in the number of services that are being made available at our fingertips. With the lines blurring between the real and virtual worlds, we are exposed to newer experiences and challenges. To bring about order among the many services being offered, users security has become a major aspect in building software based services. One of the most popular authentication mechanisms being used in secure software systems even today is the usage of passwords as a method to prove identity. From accessing our bank accounts, checking mails, buying products online or accessing any other software service we are often required to key in our passwords. As you might have experienced, remembering and keeping track of passwords proves quite difficult sometimes. On one hand you should have a strong password to thwart misuse which is often hard to remember and on the other hand repetitive or easy-to-guess passwords pose a security risk.

How can we keep multiple strong passwords without having the difficulty of remembering them? Here again software comes to our rescue in the form of password manager software. We can manage a range of passwords by creating our own password manager using the bash commandline available in popular GNU/Linux operating systems. The GNU/Bash Shell is readily available in Ubuntu/Debian based Linux systems. They can be launched using the terminal application (with the shortcut Ctrl+Alt+T). Windows 10 users can use the Ubuntu on Windows feature to utilise the bash shell. See *https://bit.ly/UbuntuOnWin* for instructions on how to download this in the Windows 10 environment.

This article will outline the process that goes into creating a password manager.

Let us assume that we have five different accounts. Now let us store them in a file called userNmPwdI.txt as shown below where the username and passwords are separated by a '|' delimiter/symbol. (These are fictitious accounts just for representative purposes.) **See Box 1.**

As you might have observed here the passwords are easy to guess or break into. It is better to generate strong passwords for accounts which are used for day-to-day purposes. So, we will first create a file userNm.txt that stores only usernames of the accounts. **See Box 2.** We will write a script genPasswd.sh that generates nine character random passwords for these accounts by using the mktemp command. **See Box 3.**

To generate the passwords, we have to run the genPasswd.sh script with userNm.txt file passed as a parameter. **See Box 4.**

These generated passwords are appended to the usernames separated by a '|' symbol and written to a file userNmPwd.txt. These generated passwords can be used as new updated passwords for your accounts which are now more secure. **See Box 5.**

This file should be stored in a place which you can access anytime you want. Thus, from now on, there will be no need for you to remember such complex passwords. However, if the access to this file is compromised, that is if some unwanted person gains access to this file then all your accounts are compromised. So while storing this file it is better to store it in an encrypted form rather than storing it in plain text form.

For this we will use the OpenSSL utility for encryption and decryption. OpenSSL utility is a community developed software project, which in their own words offers a robust, commercial grade, full-featured toolkit for general-purpose cryptography and secure communication. To get started, first we need to know how to install OpenSSL. Windows users can install the OpenSSL library using the Cygwin utility. A detailed installation procedure can be found here. *bit.ly/opensslwindows*

The following demonstration is done on a system running Ubuntu 20.04 (Focal Fossa) distribution.

Open the bash terminal and issue the following command as shown below.

cmdline_passwrdmanager$ sudo apt install openssl

You can verify the installation and check which version you are currently running. You can add -a option to see more details. **See Box 6.**

The recent release of Ubuntu 22.04 has support for the latest standard OpenSSL 3.0. OpenSSL is not just about encryption but also provides authentication and integrity checking services as well. It is commonly used in digital certificate generation and verification. In this article we are focusing on encryption and decryption only. Now getting back to our problem we will store userNmPwd.txt in encrypted form. There are several encryption schemes available as part of OpenSSL. We can obtain them by using the following command:-

cmdline_passwdmanager$ openssl list -cipher-algorithms

In this example, we will use the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) 256 bit Cipher Block Chaining(CBC) algorithm. AES 256 bit CBC is considered as one of the most secure encryption mechanisms that is hard to break because of its large keylength. Here this cipher will require a password given by the user which later generates a secure encryption key using the PBKDF2 (Password-Based Key Derivation Function 2) mechanism.

We can generate an encrypted version of the file userNmPwd.txt and store it into a file called secret.txt by running the following command. **See Box 7.**

Now, if we display the contents of secret.txt they do not make any sense as it is in encrypted form. **See Box 8.**

As we no longer need to store userNmPwd.txt as we have its encrypted equivalent secret.txt, we can delete the userNmPwd.txt file.

If required, we can re-obtain it by decrypting the secret.txt file by running the following command. **See Box 9.**

Let's use this knowledge to build two other small utility scripts, one for securing an account and password information and another to retrieve password of an account. The securePwd.sh script is shown here. **See Box 10.**

The securePwd.sh script creates the encrypted file secret.txt by taking userNmPwd.txt as input. **See Box 11.**

It also takes care of error handling with regard to the input if any. You should also notice that this script deletes the userNmPwd.txt file after creating the secret.txt file.

Now that we have secured the accounts and passwords, the next script getPasswd.sh retrieves the password for a requested account from the encrypted file secret.txt by applying decryption. Suitable error handling is also provided. The getPasswd.sh script is shown here. **See Box 12.**

This box shows a sample execution of the getPasswd.sh script to retrieve the password for an account. **See Box 13.**

So here instead of remembering multiple passwords, one has to remember the password used for encryption/decryption which now acts like a master password for all other accounts.

Suppose you want to share some secret information with someone else over mail. You can send the secret information in encrypted form. However, a question still lingers as to how to send the key to the receiver for decryption.

Well that would be enough content for writing another article.

The author is a research scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ cat userNmPwd1.txt
adidas|thx1138
british@yahoo.ca|action
victoria|drowssap
jasper|hahaha
jonas@sbcglobal.net|westside
```
Box 1

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ cat userNm.txt
adidas
british@yahoo.ca
victoria
jasper
jonas@sbcglobal.net
```
Box 2

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
cat $1 | while read line
do
   mktemp -u XXXXXXXXX;
done > pwd.txt
#cat -n pwd.txt
paste -d "|" $1 pwd.txt > userNmPwd.txt

if test -f "userNmPwd.txt"; then
    echo "Generated passwords stored in userNmPwd.txt file"
else
    echo "Failed to generate password file"
fi
rm pwd.txt
```
Box 3

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ ./genPasswd.sh userNm.txt
Generated passwords stored in userNmPwd.txt file
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$
```
Box 4

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ cat userNmPwd.txt
adidas|fToTeL4u0
british@yahoo.ca|BexTxCQVr
victoria|2QDFFxI4y
jasper|hQp3KxbUt
jonas@sbcglobal.net|kRh6rVQ4h
```
Box 5

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ openssl version
OpenSSL 1.1.1f  31 Mar 2020
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$
```
Box 6

```
jasmin@DESKTOP-017CIV5:/mnt/c/Users/Jasmin/OneDrive/Desktop$
openssl enc -aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -in userNmPwd1.txt -out secret.txt -a
enter aes-256-cbc encryption password:
Verifying - enter aes-256-cbc encryption password:
jasmin@DESKTOP-017CIV5:/mnt/c/Users/Jasmin/OneDrive/Desktop$
```
Box 7

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ cat secret.txt
U2FsdGVkX19JIAoZlWr0idNYjBxyPEiSfceI0zvyKUixXtPSinp7bl6MG/kIPp5V
MhAgnsxWgnCHXBq2wp9yHnKkFhk3IeKqGlaOkox1c5uwjquygKiZnJ1kZlX4KBnT
+1YlVXcKV4H25CCE1Yzh4xz7go3RpMl0qdykZCnYsRzMXsdWYeuLG4XZKvOb+XNg
kq2q+UG2XKloQzBJouT05IA57AiM0eUyDG82Ve2GEHaxewhBTRYBRPHk3nyzZ3DV
qBIj2zOm+exjbhiLQ7/pBOkDMPOSg3ti+HIha34aLH5ZBaOL9xAAXXszx87qSYoF
CkVlk5qRV9fgmVSuQ9tXV/GmyitztzfBu/zZL080+V0=
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$
```
Box 8

```
jasmin@DESKTOP-017CIV5:/mnt/c/Users/Jasmin/OneDrive/Desktop$
openssl enc -d -aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -in secret.txt -out userNmPwd.txt -a
enter aes-256-cbc decryption password:
jasmin@DESKTOP-017CIV5:/mnt/c/Users/Jasmin/OneDrive/Desktop$
```
Box 9

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
if [[ $# -ne 1 ]]; then
echo "Insufficient parameters, please provide a file name" >&2
    exit 2
fi

if test -f $1; then
    openssl enc -aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -in $1 -out secret.txt -a

    if test -f "secret.txt"; then
        echo "The encrypted file created is secret.txt"
        rm $1
    else
        echo "Encryption failed"
    fi
else
    echo "Input file $1 doesn't exist"
fi
```
Box 10

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ ./securePwd.sh userNmPwd.txt
enter aes-256-cbc encryption password:
Verifying - enter aes-256-cbc encryption password:
The encrypted file created is secret.txt
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$
```
Box 11

```
#!/usr/bin/bash
if [[ $# -ne 1 ]]; then
echo "Insufficient parameters, please provide a file name" >&2
    exit 2
fi
if test -f $1; then
    openssl enc -aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -in $1 -out out.txt -a -d
    ecode=$?
    if [ $ecode -eq 1 ]; then
        echo "Invalid password entered for decryption"
        exit 2
    fi
    if test -f "out.txt"; then
        echo "Enter the account for which password is to be obtained"
        read account
        grep $account out.txt 1>/dev/null
        ecode=$?
        if [ $ecode -eq 0 ]; then
            echo "The password is : " `grep $account out.txt | cut -d'|' -f 2`
            rm out.txt
        else
            echo "You entered an invalid account"
        fi
    else
        echo "Decryption failed"
    fi
else
    echo "Input file $1 doesn't exist"
fi
```
Box 12

```
putta:~/cmdline_passwdmanager$ ./getPasswd.sh secret.txt
enter aes-256-cbc decryption password:
Enter the account for which password is to be obtained
jasper
The password is :  hQp3KxbUt
```
Box 13

THE DAILY QUIZ

May 18 was International Museum Day. How well do you know the museums in India?

1 India's first food museum opened in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu last year. Which statutory body, which aims to ensure food security, established this museum?

2 Sir William Jones, a philologist and scholar of ancient India, founded an organisation in 1784 to encourage Oriental Studies. A few years later, the members of this organisation decided to establish a museum. Soon many Europeans began to donate to this museum. Today, this museum is the oldest in India and the largest multi-purpose one. Which museum is this and where is it located?

3 This small bronze sculpture without feet and with bangles stacked on the left arm dates back to circa 2500 BCE. What famous sculpture is this and which museum is it located in?

4 This museum was inspired by the pioneering historian and philosopher of Indian art, Ananda Coomaraswamy, and inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru. It was founded by an industrialist whose brother founded the Indian Institute of Management. Which museum is this?

5 The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya was earlier known by which name?

6 This man was a freedom fighter. He converted to Christianity and later started his own faith. He died at the age of 25 at the hands of the British. The Prime Minister once said he is a national icon, much like Ambedkar, Gandhi and Patel. Recently a museum was opened in his name. Who are we talking about?

7 This unique museum in Bengaluru is housed in a single room and contains about 400 specimens of a specific organ. It was established to spread awareness about the various ways in which this organ can be affected. Which organ is this?

◄ This extraordinary stone statue of a famous Kushana King was discovered in 1911 in Uttar Pradesh and is housed in the Mathura museum. Identify the person.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. *Yaadein*, a 1964 Hindi film entered the Guinness Book of World Records for this specific reason. **Ans: Sunil Dutt is the only actor to appear on screen throughout the film. It entered the Guinness Book of World Records in the category 'Fewest actors in a narrative film'.**

2. This production studio, founded by Avichi Meiyappan in 1945, is the oldest surviving studio in India. **Ans: AVM Studios**

3. Directed by Satyajit Ray, this National Award-winning film won the Best Human Document award at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival. **Ans: *Pather Panchali***

4. The unique distinction *Alam Ara* holds. **Ans: *Alam Ara* was the first Indian talkie film, bringing an end to the silent film era. It also introduced playback singing.**

5. Presented by the Government of India, the award that recognises lifetime contribution to cinema is presented in honour of this person. **Ans: Dadasaheb Phalke**

6. Described as a 'city within a city', this film studio has been recognised by Guinness World Records as the largest studio complex in the world. **Ans: Ramoji Film City**

Visual: India's first submission for the Academy Awards. **Ans: *Mother India***

Early Birds: K. Chandramohan| Ashish Nair| Pratibha Lohiya| Mohit Dolas| Pradeep Thota

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 19		
☀ RISE 05:54	SET 18:39	
☾ RISE 22:17	SET 08:47	
FRIDAY, MAY. 20		
☀ RISE 05:54	SET 18:39	
☾ RISE 23:17	SET 09:53	
SATURDAY, MAY. 21		
☀ RISE 05:53	SET 18:39	
☾ RISE 00:00	SET 10:57	

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A mostly dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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State reports 122 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday reported 122 new cases reducing the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) to 0.58%.

Of the new cases, 112 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. With one death, the State's toll remained 40,064.

Text on Narayana Guru, Periyar removed from Class X textbook

Class VII textbook has content on Narayana Guru, says Rohit Chakrathirtha

RAGHAVA M.
MANGALURU

While the controversy over inclusion of a speech of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in the first language Kannada textbook of Class X is yet to die down, the State government is caught in another controversy over exclusion of text on reformers Narayana Guru and Periyar in the new social science textbook of Class X.

In the PDF of the new Social Science part-1 textbook posted by the Karnataka Textbook Society on its website, chapter 5 dealing with "Saamajika Mattu Dharmika Sudharana Chaluvaligalu" (social and religious reform movements) has been made concise and texts related to Brahma Samaj founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Arya Samaj of Swami Dayananada Saraswati, Prarthana Samaj of Atmaram Pandurang, Satyashodana Samaj of Jyotiba Phule, Aligarh Movement by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Ramakrishna Mission of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Swami Vivekananda, and Theosophical Society of Annie Besant are mentioned.

However, the references to Narayana Guru and Periyar, which were present in the chapter in the earlier version of the text, have been removed. The new textbook is yet to reach the students in the physical form.

R. Padmaraj, treasurer of Sri Gokarnanatha Temple of Narayana Guru, said ideals of Narayana Guru, who had strived hard for empowerment of the oppressed, are relevant to the present generation. "A chapter on social and religious reforms becomes incomplete without mentioning Narayana Guru's work," he told *The Hindu*.

"By removing portions related to Narayana Guru and Periyar, the State government is denying students the ideals of these two reformers, who have contributed towards a harmonius society," said former Mangaluru City South MLA J.R. Lobo.

Mr. Lobo said the removal of the text on Narayana Guru, who has good following in Coastal Karnataka and Kerala, comes a few days after controversial exclusion of tableau related to Narayana Guru in the Republic Day parade.

> **There is no question of ignoring reforms of Narayana Guru. His work is reflected in the chapter on social and religious reforms in Social Science part-2 textbook of Class VII. People should not fall for campaign by some persons and organsations.**
>
> ROHITH CHAKRATHIRTHA
> Chairman of Textbook Review Committee

'Contextualising'

However, denying the allegation, Chairman of Textbook Review Committee, Rohith Chakrathirtha, said the chapter is related to reforms brought in by different social and religious organisations. "The content in the chapter has only been contextualised now," he told *The Hindu*.

"There is no question of ignoring reforms of Narayana Guru. His work is reflected in the chapter on social and religious reforms in the Social Science part 2 textbook of Class VII," he said. "People should not fall for campaign by some persons and organsations, who are trying to incite some communities," he added. However, there is no mention of Periyar in the same lesson in the Class VII textbook.

Revision panel drops works of many progressive writers

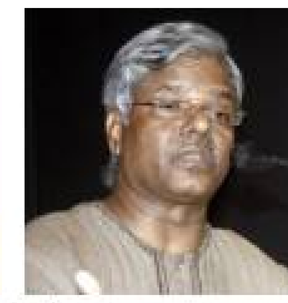
Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar's prose work has been removed

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Texts of several writers, who have been identified with the progressive stream in Kannada literature, have been dropped from the new textbooks in the process of revision.

The textbook revision committee headed by Rohith Chakrathirtha has decided to remove text of writers including Aravinda Malagatti, L. Basavaraju, B.T. Lalitha Naik, K. Neela, and others from Kannada first language textbooks of Classes VIII and IX. Among those who are included newly are S.L. Bhyrappa, writer and a vocal supporter of the Hindutva ideology.

Major revision has been in class IX textbook where Gorur Ramaswamy Iyengar's prose work "Kannada Moulvi" has made way for N. Ranganatha Sharma's "Ramarajya" and prose text "Dharma Samadrusti – Vijayanagara Shasana" has been replaced by Mr. Bhyrappa's "Nanu Kandanthe Dr. B.G.L. Swamy." While L. Basavaraju's "Urubhanga" prose has been replaced by Gajanana Sharma's "Channabyradevi", Aravind Malagatti's "Marali Manege" poem has been replaced by S.V. Parameshwara Bhatta's "Hemantha." K. Neela's prose work "Ramjan Surakumba" has been removed and Sushrutha Dodderi's "Holebaagilu" has been added.



Lalitha Naik and (right) Aravind Malagatti

Authors react

A section of writers and authors excluded have expressed dismay over exclusions that they said upheld Constitutional and secular values. "Ramjan Surakumba is my personal experience that is testimony to religious harmony and solidarity. I used the Hyderabad-Karnataka [Kalyana Karnataka] dialect in this prose work. It is only expected that the revision committee would not want the theme of communal harmony as per RSS agenda," said Ms. Neela.

Prof. Malagatti said, "Academics should not be guided by a particular ideology or agenda. School curriculum should be like ever flowing water. The committee is free to revise any text, but doing so based on an ideology is dangerous to society and our education system."

Working hard

A ragpicker collecting waste in Hebbal, Bengaluru. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Uniform mandatory for PU students: DPUE

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Following the hijab row and the recent High Court of Karnataka order on the issue, the Department of Pre-University Education (DPUE) has made uniform compulsory for all pre-university (PU) students from the 2022-23 academic year.

> ■ In case no uniform is prescribed by the College Development Committee, students must wear a garment which will "maintain equality, peace and harmony".

This was stated in admission guidelines for the 2022-23 academic year, which were released on May 16. Students must comply with the uniform prescribed by the College Development Committee (CDC), according to the guidelines.

The department has also stated that in case no uniform is prescribed by the CDC, students must wear a garment which will "maintain equality, peace and harmony".

Reacting to the guidelines, AIDSO State secretary Ajay Kamath said, "Our concern is, the CDC should take considerate opinion of all stakeholders before deciding what should be the prescribed uniform for students. Once it is decided, then it is the responsibility of the government to ensure uniform for students. Government and management should see to it that there is no shortage of uniforms and poor students do not suffer."

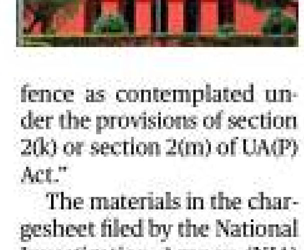
PUC classes

Meanwhile, DPUE has released the 2022-23 academic time-table, according to which the I and II PU classes will start from June 9 across the State.

While the I PU admission process will start on May 20, the II PU admission process will begin from June 1. The mid-term holidays will be from October 1 to 12 while March 31, 2023 will be the last day of the PU classes.

HC grants bail to one, declines to another in IS Bengaluru module case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU



The High Court of Karnataka has granted bail to a member of the Al-Hind group and denied bail to another member, who allegedly has links with the banned Islamic State (IS) in a two-year-old case of carrying out activities of the group in Karnataka known as "IS Bengaluru module case."

A Division Bench comprising Justice B. Veerappa and S. Rachaiah passed the order on the petitions filed by Saleem Khan, 27, a resident of Rahamath Nagar, Kolar, and Mohammed Zaid, 32, a resident of New Gurappanapalya, Bengaluru.

The court granted bail to Khan while observing that "merely attending meetings and becoming member of Al-Hind group, which is not a banned organisation as contemplated under the schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and attending jihadi meetings, purchasing training materials and organising shelters for co-members is not an offence as contemplated under the provisions of section 2(k) or section 2(m) of UA(P) Act."

The materials in the chargesheet filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) does not indicate Khan's association with any organisations that are banned under the UA(P) Act, the court said.

However, in case of Zaid, the court said that chargesheet "clearly depicts his active participation in the offence as a member of terrorist gang and conspiracy with other accused persons for criminal act and that he is associated with prime accused for contacting unknown IS handler through dark web."

The chargesheet also indicates that Zaid had taught dark web operations to a few other accused persons and prepared fake Aadhaar for Al-Hind group members, involved in furthering the activities of IS in India and assisted another accused in communicating with the IS handler through dark web, the court said while rejecting his plea for bail.

THE HINDU
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Actor's death: Notice issued to cosmetic centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Health Department on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice under the KPME Act to Dr. Shetty's Cosmetic Centre seeking a detailed explanation on the death of the 21-year-old Kananda actor who died following a liposuction procedure at the centre on Tuesday.

State Health Commissioner Randeep told *The Hindu* that the centre has been closed and asked to reply to the notice within three days.

"The centre has been registered as a polyclinic as per its Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) licence. Prima facie this looks like a violation. As a polyclinic normally does not have an operation theatre to carry out complex procedures such as liposuction that involves surgical interventions, we feel there is something amiss," he said.

The Commissioner said action under KPME Act will follow based on the Centre's reply to the notice.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF BANKING & FINANCE
Tel. No.: 022 – 6850 7006 / 6850 7005
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP)
Indian Institute of Banking & Finance invites tenders toward the RFP for selection of service provider/s to conduct remote proctored examinations in an online mode.
For further details, the prospective bidders may visit the Institute's website **www.iibf.org.in** and download the "**Request For Proposal**" document. The last date of submission of RFP is **30th June, 2022 up to 3.00 p.m.**
Mumbai, 19.05.2022 **Chief Executive Officer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.KPTCL/B121/26098(1)/21-22 Date: 18.05.2022
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KPTCL invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for the work of Repair and maintenance to 'A' 'B' and 'C' blocks (outside portion) of Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru. The offers will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. The estimated cost of the work put to tender is Rs.58.80 lakhs (including GST). Other details regarding qualifying requirements, period of completion etc., can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink E Procurement KPTCL or **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 20.05.2022.** Any details required in this regard can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours (Telephone No. 080-22238784).
Sd/- General Manager, (Tech)
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಸಂ:ಪಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:07:2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.05.2022
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ- 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ +91-8046010000 +91-8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 04.06.2022 ಸಮಯ : 16.30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.06.2022 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (3) ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.06.2022 ಸಮಯ : 11.00
ವಾವಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/631/ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022-23
ಸಹಿ/- ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL
NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/JJM/2022-23/201 Date:17.05.2022
SHORT TERM E-PROCURMENT NOTIFICATION
Double Cover System
On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for MVS O & M Works The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through e-procurement mode through portol http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
General Information: 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only. 4) Two Cover Tender Called.
If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from 18/05/2022
Tender Processing Fee : As Per E-Procurement. Tender Downloading Date : **18/05/2022 Time: 10:00 AM to 25/05/2022** . Tender receiving Date and Time : **18/05/2022 Time: 16:00 Hours to 25/05/2022.** Technical Bid Opening Date and Time : **26/05/2022 Date:17:00 Hours.** Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority : **30/05/2022 or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority**
The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.
Sd/-Executive Engineer
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/85/MCA/2022-23

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd cycle)
GANDHIGRAM – 624 302
DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU
ADMISSIONS : 2022-23
Online application registrations are invited for admission to various Post Graduate / Diploma / PG Diploma / D.Voc. / B.Voc programmes offered by the Gandhigram Rural Institute for the Academic year 2022-2023. The unfilled seats of UG programmes (if any) will be made available after filling of seats through CUET (UG)-2022. For details, visit the University website: **www.ruraluniv.ac.in**
Date: 19.05.2022 **REGISTRAR i/c**

COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)
NOTICE DATED: 19 05.2022
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR HYDRAULIC RESCUE DEVICE (HRD)
An EOI is invited from the interested suppliers for procurement of Hydraulic Rescue Device conforming to Specification no. (COFMOW/IR/HRD/2015, Rev-2). Specification is uploaded on COFMOW website https://cofmow.indianrailways.gov.in.
Interested suppliers may go through the specification and submit their technical offer by 15.00 hrs of dt 03/06/2022 at the following e-mail id.dycmep-rly@cofmow.railnet.gov.in
"Serving Customers with Smile"

यूनियन बैंक **Union Bank** of India
Andhra Corporation
SANATH NAGAR BRANCH
Hyderabad-Punjagutta Region
D. No.7-2-1735, Ground Floor, B- Block, Endeco's Alladin County, Main Road, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad - 500 018 (INDIA)
Phone: 040-23421220, 23421205
POSSESSION NOTICE
(Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002) (For Immovable Property)
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Sanath Nagar Branch, Hyderabad**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated 11.11.2021 & Paper Publication Date 23.12.2021** calling upon the **Borrower M/s. GSSMR ENERGY PVT.LTD. through the Director Mr. K. Sankara Reddy & Mr. K Santosh Reddy, Regd. Office :** No. 3155,1st Floor, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka - 560038. **Administrative Office :** Flat no. 104, Challa Pride, H.No.7-2-1735 & 7-2-1813/5/A, Czech Colony, Sanath nagar, Main Road Hyderabad-500018 Ph : 040-23811032. **Unit :** D-6 Branch of SBC, Near Devargonal Village, Yadgir District, Karnataka and **Gaurantors : 1. Mr. K. Sankara Reddy, S/o. Late K. Narayana reddy** Flat No.204, Vijaya Ratna Apartments, Hyderguda, Hyderabad. **2. Smt. Kethiredy Mounika, W/o. Sri C.N. Deepak,** Residential Flat No.209 in Second Floor of LAHARI'S ADI EMERALD situated at Kondapur Village, Serilingampally Mandal and Municipality, Ranga Reddy District. **3. Sri K. Santosh Reddy, S/o. K. Sankara Reddy,** Flat with bearing No.108, on First Floor of "CHALLA PRIDE", on plot No.4/part, in sy.No.60/9, situated at Fathenagar, Sanath Nagar, **4. Smt. Vempalli Rajamma,** House No. 276/2 RT, L-2 Type, Premises Door No.10-3-864, Situated at Mallepalli, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad – Telangana. **5. Smt. Kattameedi Brundha Sankar,** Ground Floor bearing Municipal Nos.10-3-864/76/2RT, 10-3-864/1, House No. 276/2 RT, L-2 Type, Premises Door No.10-3-864, Situated at Mallepalli, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad – Telangana. **6. Sri CN Mallikarjuna Reddy, S/o. Late Sri. CN Bheema Reddy,** 515 Colony, HAL 3rd stage, Bangalore, Bengaluru Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No 83 to repay the amounts mentioned in the notices being **Rs.6,29,99,952/- (Rupees Six Crore Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Two Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower as well as guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this **14.05.2022.**
The borrower/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, Sanath Nagar Branch** for the amounts Rs. **Rs.6,29,99,952/- (Rupees Six Crore Twenty Nine Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two only) as of 11.11.2021** and interest and costs thereon.
The Borrower's Attention are invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal No.59, (Old No.54/1) PID No.83-178-59, New PID No.058-w0205-13, formed by the Bangalore DEvelopment Authority for the 515 Command Workshop House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., Ulsoor, Bangalore - 560008 in Sy. No.30 and 41 of Thippadandra Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore, South Taluk, Presently Bangalore East Taluk, situated at 515 Colony, HAL 3rd stage, Bangalore, Bengaluru Bruhath Bangalore Mahangara Palike Ward No.83, measuring East to West 13.72 mtrs and North to South 9.14 mtrs totally 125.419 Sq. Mtrs along with residential constructed thereon in the name of Sri CN Mallikarjuna Reddy, S/o. Late Sri CN Bheema Reddy. Boundaries : East : 30 ft. wide Road, West : Site No.40, North : 30 ft. Road, South : Site No.58.
Date : 14-05-2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Hyderabad **Union Bank of India, Sanath Nagar Branch.**

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1978/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 118

BPL cards with no e-KYC compliance set to be suspended

This will impact about 22 lakh cards and 35.5 lakh beneficiaries

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Five years after the e-KYC was made mandatory for all BPL card beneficiaries, the State government is set to keep about 22 lakh BPL cards under suspension, as about 35.5 lakh beneficiaries are yet to provide their thumb impression in their respective public distribution shops across the State.

After multiple deadline extensions, the Food and Civil Supplies Department is expected to mark May 31 as the deadline for the beneficiaries to provide their biometrics and complete the e-KYC process. Of the total, 4.75 lakh are Antyodaya beneficiaries and 30.75 lakh are BPL beneficiaries.

In Karnataka, a total of 1.26 crore BPL and Antyodaya cards – covering 4.33 crore beneficiaries – have been distributed. Karnataka receives 2.17 lakh metric tonnes of food grains per month from the Centre for the PDS system.

People collecting foodgrain at a fair price shop in Mysuru.
▪FILE PHOTO

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Total BPL cards in Karnataka 1.15 crore

Total Antyodaya cards given to poorest of the poor 10.95 lakh

Total beneficiaries coming under BPL category 4.33 crore

Karnataka receives **2.17 lakh** tons of foodgrain monthly

THOSE REMOVED FROM BPL CATEGORY

85,204 income tax payers

21,232 government employees

55,000 found ineligible during local inspection

50,060 for those exceeding income limit of over ₹1.2 lakh per year

2.18 lakh farmers holding more than 3 hectares of land

7.59 lakh dead persons whose names were in the card removed

Estimated monthly savings for the government **₹18 crore**

Increasing compliance

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Umesh Katti said that the BPL card beneficiaries have been given five years to complete the e-KYC, yet they have not completed it. "In the last one year, the percentage of beneficiaries providing e KYC has gone up from 43% to nearly 92%. Why are the rest not coming forward," he asked.

"The card will be only temporarily suspended for three months. As soon as the beneficiaries complete their e-KYC, the suspension will be revoked. The cards will be cancelled if e-KYC is not completed," he added.

Sources said that among the 22 lakh BPL cards that have been identified for not completing the e-KYC, none of the family members in the beneficiary card have completed the e-KYC in many instances while in other instances the e-KYC has been partial. Department sources believe that many could have died but their names continue to stay in the card or could be bogus cards.

In about one year, the department has identified 7.59 lakh beneficiaries through the e-Janma portal, who had died but information on their death was not shared with the Government. This resulted in foodgrain continuing to be supplied to these families.

Six districts

Sources also said that another possibility is that many among the 35 lakh beneficiaries could be migrant workers, especially from Kalyana Karnataka region, who have not taken the initiative seriously. While the State figures for completion of e-KYC stands at 91.9%, six districts - Yadgir, Chamarajanagar, Vijayapura, Raichur, Kalaburagi and Gadag - have less than 89% with a majority of 35 lakh coming from these districts.

With the average offtake of foodgrain to be about 92% of the allotted 2.17 lakh metric tonnes, Mr. Katti said that it is also possible that these beneficiaries fall in the category of those not availing the PDS benefits. "But we must confirm that the benefits meant for the poor are reaching the right people," he said.

About 5 lakh cards axed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Nearly five lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) beneficiaries have been identified as 'ineligible' and the State government has cancelled the BPL cards of more than 50% of those identified. Among those identified to be using the BPL cards include income tax payers and government servants from whom a fine amount totalling to ₹9.43 crore has been collected.

Extensively using the technology, the Food and Civil Supplies Department has identified those ineligible as per the parameters laid down to hold BPL cards. HRMS, Bhoomi, e-vahan, e-janma and Aadhaar among many other database were used to weed out ineligible persons.

Among those whose cards were cancelled included 85,000 income tax payers, 21,200 government employees and 50,000 families that earned more than ₹1.2 lakh per annum. The effort has also identified 2.18 lakh farmers, who became ineligible since they hold more than three hectares of farm land.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Umesh Katti said that a total of 2.66 lakh BPL cards have been cancelled already, and 1.21 lakh cards of farmers with more than 3 hectares have also been cancelled. Besides, names of 7.59 lakh dead persons have been deleted.

The exercise is estimated to save ₹18 crore to the State exchequer.

The Minister said that many farmers had contested the three-hectare norm citing that their property was a HuF property or absence of a partition. The Revenue Department was vested with the responsibility to identify 'genuine' cases.

'Christians let down by nod to Ordinance'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Stating that the Christian community feels let down by the assent given to the Protection of Right to Religions Freedom Ordinance by the Governor, Archbishop of Bengaluru Peter Machado said that the community is "deeply hurt and disturbed" that the Government has let down the Christian population in the State.

While Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday gave his assent to promulgate an ordinance to make the anti-conversion bill an act, a delegation of Christian religious leaders had met him on Monday to prevail upon him not to give his assent.

On Tuesday, Dr. Machado, in a release said, the community feels betrayed when its sentiments are not taken note of and selfless services in the fields of education, healthcare and other social areas for the welfare of all the communities are not taken into consideration. He said that in the past few months, the community was repeatedly drawing the attention of the State government and general public that this bill was irrelevant and malicious, and only aimed at dividing Christians from other religious minorities.

BJP leader's kin paid for works not executed: Siddaramaiah

Congress leader seeks resignation of Minister for Major and Minor Irrigation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Alleging that a sum of ₹425 crore had been paid to the contractor who is a former BJP MLA's brother with respect to two tenders for modernising Narayanpur Right Bank Canal without completion of work, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Wednesday demanded a House committee probe. He also sought the resignation of Minister for Major and Minor Irrigation Govind Karjol.

At a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah said two contracts with a total value of ₹1,619 crore for modernisation of the first to 15th distribution canals and 16th to 18th sub-canals under the Narayanpur Right Bank Canal in Lingsugur and Deodurg taluks of Raichur district had been awarded to N.D. Vaddar, brother of the former BJP MLA Manappa Vajjal.

Following complaints by Lingsugur MLA D.S. Huligeri that ₹425 crore had been paid to the contractor without completion of works, the Chief Minister had constituted a technical committee for the spot inspection. The committee, after conducting a spot inspection, had ruled that the contractor had submitted false accounts and data, he said.

Mr. Siddaramiaah alleged that engineers, contractors, and government authorities had colluded to siphon off funds in the project by furnishing false accounts.

In all, ₹800 crore had been swindled without taking up the listed works that were part of the contract, he said. The goons hired by the contractor had obstructed the Legislature Estimates Committee from examining the place of contract, he alleged. The government was yet to act against either the contractor or his goons, he said.

Demanding that an exclusive House committee of the Assembly be constituted to examine if the works listed in the contract had been completed by the contractor, Mr. Siddaramaiah said such a committee should get police security.

Meanwhile, Congress working president Eshwar Khandre in a separate press conference accused the government of not recruiting officials to 30,000 vacant posts in Kalyana Karnataka region. "Development of the region has not taken place due to vacant posts and the BJP government has resorted to reversing reservation given to KK region candidates."

Horatti formally joins BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Veteran political leader Basavaraj Horatti, who resigned as chairman of the Legislative Council and MLC a few days ago, formally joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

It was only a formality as Mr. Horatti, who was the senior most member in the Karnataka Legislative Council, had already discussed the issue with party key strategist Amit Shah.

He had been elected earlier on JD(S) ticket.

The Chief Minister announced that a mega event would be held in Hubballi soon to induct him into the fold.

The CM said that the inclusion of Mr. Horatti, who holds a record for being a long-serving member of the Legislative Council, will add great strength to the party, especially in North Karnataka.

Prominent BJP leader from Hubballi, Jagadish Shettar, National General Secretary C.T. Ravi and Revenue Minister R. Ashok were present on the occasion.

GST ID number restored

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Commercial Tax Department here on Wednesday succeeded in restoring the GST Identification Number to a Bengaluru based defence components supplying company that had been waiting for over two months to retrieve the number.

Sources in the department said that the technical glitch in GSTN that had prevented restoration of the suspended GSTIN to the company even after GST and penalty had been paid, had been rectified.

On Wednesday, *The Hindu* had reported highlighting the plight of Girish L., Director, ADD Engineering Components India Ltd., a component supplier to defence projects such as Light Combat Aircraft Tejas and Brahmos. The Commercial Tax Department had suspended the GSTIN of the company in March 2021 after he failed to pay GST due to COVID-19 related restrictions when companies were shut. Though he paid ₹20 lakh including a penalty of ₹2.5 lakh in December 2021, the technical glitch had come in the back of restoring his GSTIN.

Karnataka releases draft Youth Policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday released the draft Youth Policy, 2022.

Youth Empowerment Minister Narayana Gowda released the draft policy that has been prepared by a committee led by R. Balasubramanyam.

The draft policy has mainly focused on education, training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and sports programmes for youth. It has also recommended including a youth budget, the re-organisation of Youth Empowerment Department and evaluation of programmes meant for the youth. It says that the main intention is to develop youth who account for 30% of the total population in a comprehensive manner.

While the draft policy would be in public domain on the lines of the Central Draft Youth Policy, the public has been given 10 days to send in suggestions. The policy would be finalised by June 15 after examining the suggestions, an official release stated.

Modi, other leaders wish Deve Gowda on his birthday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A host of leaders wished former JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on his birthday on Wednesday including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Modi tweeted, "Birthday greetings to our former PM and respected statesman Shri H.D. Deve Gowda Ji. May Almighty bless him with a long and healthy life."

BJP and Congress leaders including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Ministers BJP B.S. Yediyurappa and Siddaramaiah and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar also sent the veteran leader birthday greetings.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited the residence of Mr. Gowda in Padmanabhanagar and wished him.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra greeting former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on his birthday at his residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN BRIEF

Certified training

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare will conduct a certified 10-month Balasevika Training in Kannada for those interested in working with women, children and community from June 10. Women between 17 and 35 years can apply. Stipend will be given to deserving candidates, Contact Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Balasevika Training Institute, #135, Nandidurga Road, Jayamahal Extension. Call 0890-22925898 /080-23330846.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No. 11, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. S&C/15(12)/HTC-MDR/CONT/2022/Call-4 Date: 18.05.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना/e-Tender Notice
ऑनलाइन निविदाएँ जीईएम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत दो वर्ष हेतु (1) ... (2) ... (3) ... और (4) ... के लिए आमंत्रित की जा रही है। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र "www.fci.gov.in" और "https:// gem.gov.in" पर उपलब्ध है। ऑनलाइन बोलियाँ 10.06.2022 को अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक प्रस्तुत की जानी है। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को "https://gem.gov.in" पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जा रहा है।
Online Tender for regular **(1) HTC at RH/GS Navalur and/to FSD Unkal, (2) HTC at RH/GS Maddur, (3) RTC at RS/FSD Bommapur to FSD Unkal and (4) RTC from RH/GS Mysore to FSD K.R. Nagar** for two yearsis invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in" & "https:// gem.gov.in"**. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 10.06.2022**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in**.
कृते महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
For General Manager (KTK)

NOTICE

To,
Mysore State Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.
Having its Head Office at Shashadri Road, Bangalore
Respected Sir,
1. Under the instructions of my clients namely Smt. Puttamma, W/o. Late. V. Bhadra Reddy, aged about 80 years, Sri Murali, S/o. Late. V. Bhadra Reddy, aged about 52 years, Sri. Srinivas, S/o. Late. V. Bhadra Reddy, aged about 45 years, all residing at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District. Do hereby issue you this legal notice as following.
2. Under instructions of my clients as above stated, one Late. V. Bhadra Reddy S/o. Venkata Reddy, along with his brothers namely V. Krishna Reddy, Munireddy, Papareddy and V. Nagi Reddy, now all are no more, were executed collateral mortgage in respect of land bearing Sy. No. 140, measuring to an extent of 1 Acre, Sy. No. 141, to an extent of 0.03 guntas and land bearing Sy. No. 143, measuring 1 Acre 36 guntas, situated at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, vide mortgage deed No. 3100, volume No. 1100, page No. 142-144, dated 06.02.1969, in favour of you above stated.
3. It is further instructions of my clients that, subsequently the above stated properties took partition along with other ancestral properties between family members of the Late V. Bhadra Reddy, the revenue records standing in their respective names as per the partition.
4. It is instructed by my clients that, being law-abiding citizens of this country my clients intend to clear all outstanding mortgage amount in favour of you co-operation Ltd. At several occasions my clients approached your office to clear the payment barrowed by you, and to get redemption of the registered mortgage deed as above stated, but you are not responding to my clients approach. Hence this legal notice.
5. My clients further instructed me to state that, you are requested to come forward to receive your outstanding amount and get redemption of the registered collateral mortgaged deed in favour of my clients within seven days of receipt of this notice, failing which my clients will not responsible for further legal complications.
6. My clients already issued legal notice through RPAD in this regard, same as returned with 'SHARA' starting that, no such office. Hence this paper publication.
Place: Bangalore
Date: 17.05.2022
Sd/-, Y. Prakash
Advocate,
#136/6, Vijayakumar Layout,
Attibele Road, Anekal Town-562 106
Email: yprakash14@gmail.com
Mob: 9448078218

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Smt. M. Pattammal (90 yrs)
(Press Information Bureau)
W/o. Late K.V. Mahadevan
Passed away on 17th May 2022
Final rites Completed at Bangalore on 18th May 2022
Ct: +91 90030 43013 / gmdevan@hotmail.com

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Born : 15.11.1929 Died : 19.05.2021
N.C.SUNDARARAJAN
Chartered Accountant
"Those who touch our lives, stay in our Hearts Forever' "
"A Year has passed physically but your spirt still shines through our work.We walk the path of your vision and strive to make you proud."
Partners & Staff
N.C.Rajagopal & Co.,

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st Death Anniversary

Pfizer Legend
SHRI. K. SANTHANAM
30.9.41 - 19.5.21
We seek your blessings
Family and Friends

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

11.12.1926 - 19.05.2018
Prof Dr V.K.Balachandran
Former Director, Ramanujam Institute of Mathematics
S/o. (Late) Shri Manakkampatte Kesavan Unni Nair & (Late) Smt V.K. Janaki
Fondly remembered by
Smt Padmini Balachandran,
Smt Radhika Rajasenan,
Dr. Vijay Krishnan, Dr Rajasenan,
Shobhana, Vivek & Vikram

In Memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section,
Please contact
Bengaluru: 98455 29981
080-22071826,
Hubbali: 0836-2338600
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rates for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 290/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 145/-
B/W Display: Rs. 90/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 100/- per sq.cm
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Placing Advertisements
online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Channammanakere Achchukattu, Nagara Palike Building, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru.
No: EE/B.G/PR/04/2022-23 **Date: 18.05.2022**
CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sub: Regarding Cancellation of Tender
Ref: EE(BG)/e-Proc/TEND/04/2021-22,
Dated: 09.05.2022
With reference to the above subject the tender was invited by the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi division on **09.05.2022** and the same was published on **09.05.2022** based on that, last date for uploading the tender is on **23.05.2022** upto **4:00** pm and opening of tender is on **24.05.2022** upto **4:30** pm. Due to Technical reason the tender is cancelled on the approval order of Chief Engineer (South) dated **18.05.2022.** Hence, the tender notification is withdrawn.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
DRAINAGE CIRCLE, GANDARPUR, CUTTACK-753 003
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.ACEDC-CTC-03/2022-23
email id :- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

1.	Name of Works	1. Improvement of Belpal DC by Protection to Scoured Bank near village Nagada of Ragnagar Block. 2. Renovation of Arjunpur to Adheikana DC and its link drain Out falling to river Brahmani and Ayetpur DC Out falling to river Kani (Doab-XIV)
2.	Total Number of Packages	2 Nos Individual Package
3.	Estimated Cost	1. Rs.4,30,73,355.00 2. Rs.4,56,88,233.00
4.	Bid Identification No.	1) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 03/2022-23 2) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 04/2022-23
5.	Period of completion	11 (Eleven) Calendar months
6.	Availability of Tender On-Line	From19.05.2022 from 16.30 Hours to 03.06.2022 upto 17.30 Hours.
7.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	On 04.06.2022 at 10.00 Hours in the O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack.
8.	Class of Contractor	"A" & "Special" Class
9.	Bid Security	Bid Security Declaration
10.	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.10,000/-
11.	Procurement Officer	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack-753 003.

* Tender will be accepted if registered in the CDMS Portal and Furnish of "Bid Security Declaration".
Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack
A-188
OIPR-32174/11/0006/2223

Perarivalan's release victory for federalism: Stalin

CM conveys his wishes to the freed convict; lauds the efforts of Perarivalan's mother for waging a long battle for his release

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday welcomed the release of Perarivalan, one of the life convicts in former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case, and termed the Supreme Court's verdict historic. He said the release of Perarivalan was not merely a victory for an individual, but had served as an example for federalism and the autonomy of States.

In a statement, Mr. Stalin said Perarivalan, who had spent 32 years in prison and lost his youth behind bars, was finally able to smell freedom. "I convey my wishes to him and welcome him," he said.

Mr. Stalin lauded the efforts of Perarivalan's mother Arputham for waging a long battle for his release. "Time has proved that there is justice even for a single true tear. I convey my wishes to her," he said.

Warm embrace: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with Perarivalan and his mother Arputham in Chennai on Wednesday. •PTI

The Chief Minister recalled the arguments put forth by the State government in the case and pointed out that it had established the rights of States.

"It is extremely important that the judges have made it clear that the Governor cannot interfere in the policies of the State government. The judges have also said that when the Governor does not take action, the courts will step in. They have also clarified that there is no necessity to ask the opinion of the Union government in this matter," he said. "This is a victory for the whole of India, State autonomy and federalism, through the Tamil Nadu government," he said.

Mr. Stalin said the [previous] Governor did not take any action on the resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 2018. At that time, the DMK, which was in opposition, had kept insisting that the Governor immediately give his approval. In 2020, he had met the Governor again, seeking their [convicts'] release as per the Supreme Court's decision and the resolution passed by the Assembly, he said.

The DMK had taken the same stance while in opposition and after coming to power – that the seven convicts must be released, he said, adding that the government had also granted parole to Perarivalan, considering his health.

Was never bogged down by failures: Perarivalan

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

An unrelenting faith in the judiciary despite several setbacks and constant support from family and friends led to the three-decades-old battle for freedom tasting success on Wednesday, A.G. Perarivalan said.

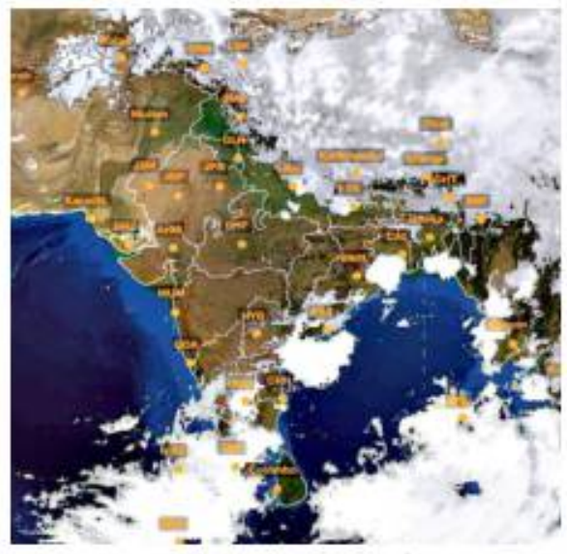
"It was a lone man's struggle for justice. It would not have been possible had my mother not stood by me all through my testing times. It was not just my suffering in prison for 31 long years...my mother and other family members also suffered equally. On many occasions, freedom seemed to be at the doorstep but the case would get dismissed. But I was never bogged down by failures," Mr. Perarivalan told *The Hindu*.

"The pain of seeing my mother in tears each and every time was more painful than the prolonged imprisonment. As she was growing old I got scared because all her efforts to secure my release should not go waste. I wanted to get released during her lifetime. I am happy that I am with my family now," he said.

Thanking Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, he said the State government successfully established its power envisaged in the Constitution. "I also want to thank the Opposition and all other political parties and persons who supported me," he said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Konkan & Goa, north interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over south Punjab, south Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6	36.0	27.4	Kozhikode	115	29.2	23.4
Ahmedabad	–	42.4	28.0	Kurnool	0.6	36.6	26.6
Aizawl	–	20.5	–	Lucknow	–	41.7	28.8
Allahabad	–	45.2	28.5	Madurai	0.4	35.1	25.3
Bengaluru	114.6	29.0	20.2	Mangaluru	7.6	28.4	23.9
Bhopal	–	41.5	25.6	Mumbai	–	34.2	27.6
Bhubaneswar	–	36.0	27.3	Mysuru	23	30.2	19.2
Chandigarh	5	40.3	23.2	New Delhi	–	40.6	29.6
Chennai	–	35.7	27.5	Patna	–	40.6	26.1
Coimbatore	4	28.9	22.9	Port Blair	139	26.2	23.2
Dehradun	–	33.8	22.1	Puducherry	–	33.1	26.7
Gangtok	2	23.4	14.9	Pune	–	38.6	23.6
Goa	2	31.2	24.9	Raipur	–	41.3	29.4
Guwahati	31	32.8	21.4	Ranchi	–	38.7	26.0
Hubballi	–	29.0	23.0	Shillong	13.8	25.0	16.9
Hyderabad	–	35.8	27.4	Shimla	–	30.8	20.4
Imphal	47	22.4	20.1	Srinagar	2	27.0	11.4
Jaipur	–	43.0	31.1	Thiruvananthapuram	32	27.1	22.8
Kochi	27	27.2	24.4	Tiruchi	4	34.6	26.5
Kohima	12.8	20.5	15.0	Vijayawada	–	38.2	28.2
Kolkata	0.1	36.3	28.4	Visakhapatnam	–	34.5	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	–	5	35	325	277	
Bengaluru	11	32	39	79	92	
Chennai	14	19	34	25	81	
Delhi	8	12	43	234	321	
Hyderabad	10	42	–	68	118	
Kolkata	9	92	10	23	36	
Lucknow	6	69	49	249	187	
Mumbai	24	11	97	120	281	
Pune	–	22	52	291	154	
Visakhapatnam	17	23	6	33	52	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karti's aide held in visa scam case

Bhaskar accused of taking bribe to facilitate visas for Chinese workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A day after conducting searches on the premises of Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram and others accused in the alleged visas scam, the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday arrested S. Bhaskar Raman, who was named first accused in the case.

Mr. Raman, a close associate of Mr. Karti, was arrested in Chennai after questioning by investigators of the CBI's Economic Offences Wing, New Delhi.

The CBI had accused him of taking ₹50 lakh bribe to facilitate the re-use of Project Visas for Chinese workers, who were deployed in the construction of a 1980 MW thermal power plant at Mansa in Punjab in 2011.

Besides other evidences, the investigative agency relied on several email communications between the beneficiary company – M/s Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL) – officials and Mr. Raman.

Kerala gears up to tackle rain fury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has tasked emergency services, the police, local self-governments and revenue officials to prepare micro-level disaster management plans to mitigate the threat of landslips, mudslides, tidal surges, rough seas, flooding and waterlogging usual during the southwest monsoon.

Reviewing the State's monsoon preparedness, Mr. Vijayan said agencies should work in tandem to evacuate people living in disaster zones in advance.

The India Meteorological Department predicted a lull in the heavy downpour between May 19 and 25. The administration should use the interlude to complete monsoon preparedness related tasks on a war footing.

Mr. Vijayan prioritised declogging of storm water drains, pre-monsoon pruning of trees, servicing powerlines and posts, and cleaning homes, neighbourhoods, government offices, and public spaces.He asked local bodies to open disaster management control rooms. The police and Fire and Rescue department should stock dinghies and boats in advance. They should identify persons who could operate them.

Natural disaster management experience in the past years has informed the government's pre-monsoon readiness. The government has streamlined administrative mechanisms to seek the service of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force in real-time.

PSI scam: Bail plea rejected

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

The third JMFC court in Kalaburagi has, on Wednesday, rejected the bail petition of Prabhu and his father Sharanappa, who were allegedly involved in the PSI recruitment scam.

Prahbhu, who was on the provisional list of selection, was charged with committing exam malpractice by writing the recruitment examination using a Bluetooth device. His father was charged with paying money to the middlemen for facilitating his son to write the competitive examination using a Bluetooth device. They had confessed before the CID.

LDF gets upper hand in Kerala local body bypolls

LDF bags 24 seats, UDF 12 while BJP gets 6 seats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has gained the upper hand in the Kerala bypolls held in 42 local body wards on Tuesday by winning 23 seats against the United Democratic Front's (UDF) 12. An LDF-backed Independent has won one seat while six wards have gone to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Padmaja S. Menon of the NDA. •R.K. NITHIN

Among the LDF constituents, CPI(M) has won 16 seats and the CPI seven. For the UDF, the Congress has won 11 and the Indian Union Muslim League one, the State Election Commission said after the counting of votes on Wednesday.

The bypolls had reported a turnout of 78.24%.

The LDF wrested six sitting seats of the UDF and two of the BJP. The Congress grabbed three sitting seats of the LDF and the BJP two seats of the CPI(M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed that I, Dr. Suhas.S assert and clarify that I have had no professional or any other association whatsoever with the TV channel namely TV5 Kannada or Mr.Balakrishna of Social TV or Skin and Hair Factory. I would further caution the general public not to be misled by any audio/video/print content as I do not expressly or impliedly endorse any product or service of any kind and of any organization or person that is directly or indirectly promoted or supported by the said TV 5 Kannada or Mr Balakrishna or Skin and Hair Factory.

I would not be held accountable to anyone for any negative consequences resulting from such representation. Any representation to the contrary effect by any person would be suitably and sternly dealt with in due course.

Dr. Suhas.S
Life is Beautiful Clinic
Basavanagudi, Bangalore
Phone: 8044827555

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given on behalf of our client Namitha Jalori that the General Power of Attorney dated 7 October 2020 given by our client in favour of her sister Saritha Raghunath is revoked by our Client in terms of Deed of Revocation of General Power of Attorney dated 22 March 2022 and all the authority and powers granted in favour of Saritha Raghunath thereunder have come to an end.

All persons are hereby required to take notice of the aforesaid and are required and warned not to deal with Saritha Raghunath in respect of any of the affairs of our client Namitha Jalori under the said General Power of Attorney dated 7 October 2022 or otherwise. Any person doing so will do so at his own risk and consequences and such acts/transactions shall not be binding upon our client.

For **Samvad Partners**
Partner-Poornima Hatti
#62/1, Palace Road, Vasanthnagar,
Bangalore – 560 001

Date: 19 May 2022
Place: Bangalore

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Bellary Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

Brief Tender Notification

Two Cover System (Only through e-procurement portal)
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/Work_Indent 12315 Date:14-05-2022

Tenders are invited through GOK e-procurement platform **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from the experienced agencies/firms having adequate past experience in the field of operation and repair/maintenance/servicing of workshop machineries/equipments in any industrial establishments or thermal power stations for the work of **" Operation & House Keeping of Machineries at BTPS Workshop (viz. Lathe Machines, Drilling Machines, Milling Machine, Shaping Machine, Shearing Machine, Pressing Machine, EOT Crane etc) for a period of one year ."** **Amount put to tender:** ₹ 14.28 Lakhs. **EMD:** ₹ 35,704. Tender fee: As per e-portal. Tender documents can be downloaded from the above website. **Last date for submission of PQR Bid/Technical Bid & Price Bid completed in all respects:** 03-06-2022 up to 15:00 hrs. **Date of opening of Technical Bid:** 04-06-2022 at 15:10 hrs. **Date of opening of Price Bid:** 04-06-2022 at 15:30 hrs. Further details can be had from the office of: **The Executive Engineer (MM), BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile:** 9448290571

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, IPC. Division No.1, Kalaburgi.

No.EE/KNNL/IPC/DN-1/PB/2022 -23/300 Date:17.05.2022

CORRIGENDUM-II (THROUGH "e" "Procurement" ONLY)

Ref: 1. This office tender notification no.198 dated : 05.05.2022
Ref: 2. This office tender notification no.292 dated : 16.05.2022

The corrigendum to the tender notification for one work coming under Lower Mullamari project has been invited under reference above. Due to technical reasons schedule of calendar events are modified. The modified calendar events are as follows.

1) The approximate estimated cost of work is Rs. **4,64,40,184.00,** 2) The bidders can access blank e-procurement documents from **18.05.2022 onwards upto 24.05.2022 up to 4.30** PM. 3) Last date and time for submission of bids through e-portal is **26.05.2022 upto 4.30 PM,** 4) Opening of Technical Bid is on **27.05.2022 at 05.00 PM** onwards. 5) Opening of Financial Bid is on **30.05.2022 at 11.00 AM onwards**

Further information can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours (Phone No. 08472-220590) and visit website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in . All other terms and conditions as per original Notification.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
KNNL IPC Division-1, KALABURAGI

DIPR/Kalaburagi/156/MC&A/2022-23

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
DRAINAGE CIRCLE, GANDARPUR, CUTTACK-753 003
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.ACEDC-CTC-04/2022-23
email Id :- aedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

1.	Name of Works	7 Nos. of Packages - Ranges from Rs.136.56 Lakhs to Rs.338.77 Lakhs
2.	Bid Identification No.	1) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 05/2022-23 2) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 06/2022-23 3) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 07/2022-23 4) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 08/2022-23 5) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 09/2022-23 6) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 10/2022-23 7) ACEDC-CTC/DD- KPD - 11/2022-23
3.	Period of completion	11 (Eleven) Calendar months
4.	Availability of Tender On-Line	23.05.2022 from 16.30 Hours to 09.06.2022 upto 17.30 Hours.
5.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	10.06.2022 at 10.00 Hours in the O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack.
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	20.06.2022 at 10.00 Hours in the O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack.
7.	Date of Lottery (If Required)	27.06.2022 at 11.30 Hours in the O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack.
8.	Procurement Officer	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Gandarpur, Cuttack-753003.

* Tender will be accepted if registered in the CDMS Portal and Furnish of "Bid Security Declaration".
Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

A-189 : **Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Cuttack**
OPR-32174/11/6004/2223

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:605/EEE/MWD/AEE(O)/HBL/2022-23/503-06 Date: 16.05.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing 110KV SC link line between **110kV Tarihal substation and 110kV Akshaya Colony** substation by using EHV 110kV, 630 sq.mm UG cable for a route length of 8.986Kms. on or after 20-05-2022.

Cable route: -110KV Sub station Tarihal,Tarihal Industrial Area, Tarihal under pass bridge road, Behind Airport road, Kalki Nagar Layout, Achal Developers, Asha Nagari Layout Phase-1 & Phase-2, Nivedana Layout, Laxmisai Gurukul Layout, Shettar Layout, Daneshwari Layout, Mahalaxmi (Eligance) apartment,110KV Akshaya Colony and surrounding areas.

The above said Transmission UG Cable line will be energized on or after 20-05-2022. The general public/HDMC/ Water board/BSNL/NHAI/KIADB/ any public or state Government/ Private organization are hereby informed to keep away from the above EHT UG Cable route and not to undertake any excavation in the above mentioned cable route. Any untoward incidents or accidents which may occur during the course of excavation/ executing the work by any agency along the cable route without following guidelines, the KPTCL will not be responsible and damage charges shall be borne by the agency only.

Hence, you are requested to publish this caution notice.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele),
Major Works Division, KPTCL, Hubballi.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, KNNL. I.P.C. Divn, No.1 Kalaburagi,

No.EE/KNNL/IPCD-1/PB-4/2022-23/303 Date : 18.05.2022

CORRIGENDUM TIME EXTENSION

Ref:.EE/KNNL/IPCD-1/ PB-4/TND/2022-23/290 Dates:16.05.2022

The tender for the work of Amarja, GNP SCP, TSP Project, Total work,s-03 has been invited under reff above. Due to technical reasons schedule of calendar events are modified.the Modified calendar events are as follows.

Sl No.	Calendar of Events	As per Original Notification	As per Modified (to be read as below)
a	The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document, i.e. the Tender schedules, bid documents and other documents in the web site www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non- refundable) from	From 17.05.2022 To 24.05.2022 upto 4.30 pm	From 19.05.2022 To 26.05.2022 upto 4.30 pm
b	Last Date for submission of quarries if any is on or before	23.05.2022 up to 4.30 pm	25.05.2022 up to 4.30 pm
c	The Last date of Submission of completed tender documents (cover- I and cover- II)	24.05.2022 up to 4.30 pm	26.05.2022 up to 4.30 pm
d	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover –I)	26.05.2022 at 11.00 AM	27.05.2022 at 5.00 PM
e	The Financial bid of pre-qualified Contractors will be opened on i.e., Cover II.	30.05.2022	01.06.2022

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
KNNL IPC Division-1, KALABURAGI

DIPR/Kalaburagi/157/MC&A/2022-23

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಹೆಚ್.ಆರ್.ಜಿ.ಪ್ಲತ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ 583 101.
Phone : 08392-273731 e-mail-combudably@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಸಆಪ್ರಾ/ಇಎನ್‌ಜಿಜಿ/02/ಕ್ರಿಯೋ/ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್/21-22/22-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.05.2022

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.05.2022 ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08(24) ರ ನಿರ್ಣಯದಂತೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಒಟ್ಟು 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ – 3 ರನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್ ಆರ್ ಗುತ್ತೇದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

01. Proposed12 Mt High High mastLight At 1) Bommanahal Road Near Kanekal Bus Stop, 2) Balarappa Colony, 3) Near St.Joseph School Pooja Instiute and 4) SannaDurgamma Temple Belagallu Road ,Ballari City, Ballari. & Proposed Decorative Lights at Car Street from Mothi Circle to Brucepet Police Station in Ballari City, Ballari. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** 90.12

02. Proposed 9 Mt Mini mast Light At Near Cool Corner Circle,Swatantra geri Circle, ABV layout circle, VV Temple, GS Colony Park, Gandhinagar 1st cross, Agadi Compound Circle,PG Temple,Rupanagudi Road Junction,SannaDurgamma Temple, Ballari,Proposed Median Street Lights From Bharathiya Milk Dairy To Basveshwara Circle (SanganakalluEntrance) in Ballari City, Ballari And Proposed Decorative Light At Railway underpass Near Satyanarayana Pet in Ballari City, Ballari. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** 72.10

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.05.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ:04.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ). 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.06.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ:04.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.06.2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ:04.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:10.06.2022 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಗೆ:11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08392-273731 ರವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು 1)ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಕ್ಕೂ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಜಾಲ (ಅನ್‌ಲೈನ್)ಸಿಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ 2)ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು. ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇವರು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಅನ್ವಯವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ/59/ಎಂಸಿ/2022-23 ಸಹಿ/- ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.

Law and public opinion

The release of Perarivalan is no endorsement of any claim of his innocence

The Supreme Court has invoked its extraordinary power to order the release of A.G. Perarivalan, one of the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, for whose freedom his mother, many political parties and vast sections of public opinion have been campaigning for years. The suicide bombing that took the life of Rajiv Gandhi, along with that of 15 others, including nine police personnel, on "Tamil soil" caused a great deal of revulsion in the State, but this sentiment abated with the passage of time. Perarivalan drew much public sympathy, largely due to the fact that he was only 19 when he got embroiled in the assassination plot and later revelations that a portion of his confessional statement was improved by a police officer to link his purchase of a battery to the one used in the belt bomb that was used in the suicide bombing. But essentially, the verdict of the three-member Bench is an indictment of the disregard for federal norms in the deliberate inaction that Raj Bhavan displayed when presented with a Cabinet advice to release them in 2018. Going by the Union government's arguments, one can discern that it was the Centre's guiding hand that was responsible for the delay. The then Governor had referred the Cabinet advice to the President for a decision. The Centre, too, argued, that cases involving murder under the IPC came under the President's exclusive jurisdiction in matters of remission of life sentences. The Court has put an end to all doubts by holding that the Governor is bound by the State Cabinet's advice when acting under Article 161 of the Constitution, that his reference to the President was "inimical to the scheme of the Constitution" and that remission remains firmly under the State's jurisdiction in this case.

Even when a Constitution Bench, while resolving legal questions over the statutory power of remission under the Cr.P.C., held that the release of these convicts would require the Centre's concurrence, it had made it clear that the constitutional powers of the President (Article 72) and the Governor (Article 161) "remain untouched". In the light of this, and the position that remission powers are exercised solely on Cabinet advice, there was no infirmity in the State's recommendation to the Governor in 2018 for their release. While the Bench has done well to put an end to doubts about the Governor's remission power and the manner of its exercise, a sticking point remains. Nothing has been said on what should be done when the absence of any time-frame for the President or the Governor is cynically exploited to indefinitely delay executive decisions. It is impractical for every matter to be escalated to the point that the Supreme Court needs to invoke its extraordinary powers under Article 142. However, the judgment should not be seen as any endorsement of the claims of innocence of the convicts in the dastardly conspiracy. And whether governments should recommend remission on the basis of public opinion remains a question to ponder.

Fall of Mariupol

Both Russia and Ukraine are worse off than they were before the start of the war

The surrender of an estimated 1,000 defensive forces who were holed up in the sprawling Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol likely marks the end of fighting in the eastern Ukrainian city that has been under a long Russian siege. Russia had announced a few weeks ago of having taken over the city. But hundreds of fighters remained in the steel mill. With many of them ending the fight and allowing themselves to be evacuated to the Russia-controlled territories of Donbas, the whole city is now in the hands of the Russians. Kyiv also said it wanted to save the lives of its servicemen. Mariupol, with a pre-war population of half a million, most of them Russian-speaking, had been briefly taken over by pro-Russian separatists in 2014, immediately after Russia annexed Crimea. But Ukrainian nationalist forces, including the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, took the city back and drove the separatists further towards east. Ever since then, the city, which hosted the headquarters of the Azov Battalion, has become a flashpoint in Ukraine's civil conflict – for Ukrainian nationalists, a symbol of resistance, but for Russia-backed Donbas militias, a part of their claimed territories. Now, with Mariupol's capture, the Russians can finally claim a major victory. But the fact that it took almost three months for Russia's better-equipped military to make this happen speaks a lot about Ukraine's resistance.

Russia has suffered several setbacks in its invasion of Ukraine. It started a three-front war but was met with fierce Ukrainian resistance in the north and east. Later, Russia gave up its attempts to envelope Kyiv in the northern front and, at least for now, retreated from Kharkiv, the northeastern city. Its battleground focus is now almost entirely on the Donbas region where Russian troops are making incremental advances. Now, with Mariupol under its control, Russia can free up resources to move to its next target, which suggests that the war could grind on. The tragedy of Ukraine is that it has got stuck in a larger power rivalry between the West and Russia. Despite the West's massive financial and military support, Ukraine keeps losing territories. On the other side, even as Russia is making slow battleground gains in Ukraine, it is facing bigger setbacks. The invasion has already prompted Finland and Sweden, which have historically stayed out of military alliances, to formally seek NATO membership. So, in less than three months since the invasion began, there are no clear winners – Ukraine is losing territories, Russia is witnessing another round of NATO's enlargement, and Europe, battered by inflation and an energy crisis, is likely to be facing prolonged instability and conflicts.

Delimitation fallout needs no political forecasting

Electoral sinew to one set of States while depleting representative muscle to another will fuel north-south India tensions

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

There was a time, not all that long ago, when English speakers in the south of India routinely referred to our north as 'Upper India'. This sense of the north's upper-ness included, somewhere in its folds, a sense of the north having the upper hand in the affairs of the nation, of being bigger, more populous and, therefore, the more dominant of the two. Being 'upper' also encased within its meaning the fact of the nation's capital, Calcutta and later Delhi, being 'up' there, with Simla as the nation's summer capital 'up above the world so high like a diamond in the sky'.

The political summit

The Imperial Legislative Council, with its Central Legislative Assembly as the Lower House and the Council of State as the Upper House, being located in Delhi pushed that upperness further up. Seeing persons of the eminence of Muhammad Habibullah, A. Rangaswami Iyengar, S. Srinivasa Iyengar, Omandur Ramaswami Reddiar, Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar, Tanguturi Prakasam, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, V.V. Giri, S. Satyamurti, N.G. Ranga, C.N. Muthuranga Mudaliar, T.S.S. Rajan, K. Santhanam, M.C. Rajah, the Raja of Bobbili and N. Sivaraj 'move' diligently to Delhi by upbound trains, for legislative sessions, could not but reinforce the perceived image of India's north as India's political summit. Later, the Constituent Assembly with N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer, Rajaji, Jerome D' Souza, K. Kamaraj, C. Subramaniam, V.I. Munuswamy Pillai, in it, and some remarkable south Indian women – Ammu Swaminathan, G. Durgabai, Annie Mascarene, Dakshayani Velayudham – and successive Lok Sabhas and the Rajya Sabha drawing Members of Parliament of the stature of A.K. Gopalan, T. Nagi Reddy, C.N. Annadurai, P. Sundarayya, Panampilly Govinda Menon, C.H. Mohammed Koya, M. Ruthnaswamy, K.T.K. Thangamani and Era Sezhiyan, going to Delhi, by air rather than by rail, of course, continued the 'India's north as India's peak' image. Needless to say, that 'peak' was scaled in terms of outstanding legislative performance by these men and women.

Congress and Left symmetry

The Indian National Congress, however, it needs to be noted, was from the very start, aware of the need for India's regions to be seen as equal, bereft of any asymmetry. Its very third session after Bombay (1885) and Calcutta (1886) was held in Madras (1887, and many times later), followed by several Congress sessions of note taking place in the south – Amaravati/Amraoti (1897), Coconada (1923), Belgaum (1924), and the seminal one, at Avadi (Madras) in 1955, attended by Yugoslavia's President Marshal Josip Broz Tito, where the party adopted 'a socialistic pattern of society' as its avowed objective.

The All India Kisan Sabha, the peasant wing of the Communist Party of India, likewise, which had first met in a 'founder-conference' in Lucknow in 1936, met at its fifth session in 1940 in Palasa, Srikakulam, then in Madras Presidency and now in Andhra, under the chairmanship of Rahul Sankrityayan. It has, since, met very pointedly in southern venues as much as in northern.

These considered arrangements embody the opening Article 1 of our Constitution: India, that is Bharat.

That phrase makes India, Bharat and Bharat, India – one belonging to and in fact, being the other.

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But the question needs to be asked, today: What makes India, 'India', or Bharat, Bharat?

And why, today?

Impact of delimitation

Because four years from now, India's electoral democracy will stand on an existential crossroads. A delimitation of the constituencies that will elect Members of the Lok Sabha, following the population figures returned by the next decennial Census, is to take place in 2026.

A good thing! We cannot have, should not have, the same number of Members of Parliament– 543 – representing a vastly increased population in the Lok Sabha. Mathematically speaking, the higher the number of people per constituency, the lower the impact each voter has on parliamentary representation – clearly an undesirable situation. The Constitution of India recognised this and provided for a periodic, Census-linked re-arrangement of constituencies to make their representation in Parliament tenable. More people should mean more MPs. Simple, sound logic. But simple, sound politics also? No.

A population-based marking out or re-arrangement of constituencies, as envisaged in Article 82 of the Constitution, will have the effect of giving more MPs to the States and Union Territories that have let their numbers grow, and will give markedly less MPs to those that have held their numbers in some check. Realising the anomaly that a delimitation based on Census data would cause, a delimitation freeze was put in position by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi through the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution in 1976. This was extended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee through the 84th Amendment. It is this extension that is to end in 2026, placing us at a crossroads.

What the data show

What is the way forward?

Considering the Census data for 2011, almost half (48.6%) of our population (of approximately 1.38 billion) is contributed by the States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. According to the projections made by the Technical Group formed by National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 2011-36, Uttar Pradesh's share in India's population would see an increase by 1.74 percentage points (from 15.30% in 1971 to a projected 17.03% in 2026), Bihar's by 1.59 percentage points (from 7.69% in 1971 to projected 9.28% in 2026) and Rajasthan's by 1.17 percentage points (from 4.70% in 1971 to projected 5.87% in 2026).

Tamil Nadu's share in India's population would see a decline by 2.08 percentage points (from 7.52% in 1971 to projected 5.44% in 2026), undivided Andhra's by 1.46 percentage points (from 7.94% in 1971 to a projected 6.48% in 2026), and Kerala's by 1.36 percentage points (from 3.89% in 1971 to a projected 2.54% in 2026). Interestingly, West Bengal's will also decline by 1.03 percentage points (from 8.08% in 1971 to a projected 7.05% in 2026).

Re-arranging and standardising the number of people per constituency through the scheduled delimitation exercise will inevitably lead to a reduced representation for States that have managed to stabilise their populations, and to a higher representation for States that have not stabilised their populations.

It needs no political forecasting to see that emotions will be strained by a delimitation exercise that adds electoral sinew to one set of States, while depleting representative muscle to another. The upperness syndrome, which has now become a thing of the past, should not come back in the guise of delimitation. We cannot afford a tension on the north-south front in addition to those we already have.

There are alternatives

There are two alternatives before us: one, we go in for another freeze, this time not for any specific period but for until all States have achieved population stabilisation. Two, we request demographic and statistical experts to devise a mathematical model along the lines of the 'Cambridge Compromise' based on a mathematically equitable "formula" for the apportionment of the seats of the European Parliament between the member-states. That formula cannot be applied to our situation as such but needs to be studied so as to customise it for our needs.

Given the complications of the Indian demographic scene, and the distorting shadow that Census data may cast on the delimitation process, I would say the first option is the more persuasive one. The population-stabilising States of India that is Bharat, which include all the southern States, must continue to enrich our legislative and parliamentary processes as they have been doing since the time of the Imperial Legislative Council, with no penalties having to be paid for their sense of responsibility. We need to limit population, not representation.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor. The article has statistical inputs from the Population Foundation of India

The 'Roe' draft ruling could affect other civil rights

If constitutionally protected women's rights could face revocation, the rights of gay and lesbian people may be next

KANAV NARAYAN SAHGAL

The leaked *Roe vs Wade* draft opinion has been in the news for its possible impact on abortion rights, but it also paves the way for the erosion of gay rights in America. If constitutionally protected women's rights that were recognised almost 50 years ago, and then re-affirmed almost 20 years later, could be revoked by a conservative supermajority in the U.S. Supreme Court, then similarly situated rights for gay and lesbian people – such as the right to marry someone of the same sex – are also susceptible to revocation.

A background

In December 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded oral arguments in *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization*, an ongoing case that looks at a 2018 Mississippi law (The Gestational Age Act) that bans most abortions after 15 weeks. Almost 50 years earlier, the same top court held in *Roe vs Wade* (1973) that it was unconstitutional for states to ban or restrict abortions before fetal viability. Later, *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs Casey* (1992) reaffirmed *Roe's* central holding on viability. Keeping *Roe* and *Casey* in mind, lower courts permanently enjoined the Mississippi law, but the case eventually moved up to the Supreme Court, with the following question: are all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions unconstitutional?

This question (and the court's acceptance to answer it) is at the heart of *Roe* and *Casey* because the *Roe* court had already decided that answer in the affirmative back in 1973; and this was re-affirmed in 1992 by the *Casey* court. The leaked first draft of the court's majority decision in *Dobbs*, however, departs from precedent and signals a completely different turn. With conservatives currently holding a super-majority in the U.S Supreme Court, it should come as no surprise that *Roe* and *Casey* are set to be overturned by June or July 2022.

Impact on rights

A running theme in this first draft of the *Dobbs* judgment was the court's emphasis on originalism. In fact, the very first page of the draft says that "the constitution makes no mention of abortion" (pg.1); then on page 9 it reads "the abortion right, which is not mentioned in the Constitution, is part of a right to privacy, which is also not mentioned. Throughout the rest of the draft, Justice Alito writes extensively about how abortion rights were never a part of the "Nation's history and tradition" and non-essential to ordered liberty – hence, ineligible for protection under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as laid out in *Washington vs Glucksberg* (1997).

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An originalist reading of the Constitution and an application of similar reasoning as the one applied in this draft opinion (minus the emphasis on protecting "life or 'potential life") could invalidate all rights for gay and lesbian Americans. Gay rights do not have any place in American history and tradition; it is quite the opposite with American history rife with instances of homophobia going back to the 20th century. Moreover, the reasoning employed by the *Obergefell* court that legalised same-sex marriage nationwide in 2015 was similar to the reasoning applied by the *Roe* and *Casey* courts years earlier – namely, that the then-existing same-sex marriage bans across the country were a violation of gay and lesbian people's liberty rights, as found in the Fourteenth Amendment.

Similarly, in *Lawrence vs Texas* (2003), the Supreme Court upheld the privacy rights of gay and lesbian people while striking down Texas's then-anti-sodomy law; these rights were located in a similar place in the Constitution as the right to abortion. Simply put, a rollback of *Roe* and *Casey* could allow state legislatures across the country to re-instate bans or restrictions on gay rights such as limitations on same-sex couple adoptions or sexuality education in schools. States could do this by arguing that gay and lesbian people have neither the fundamental right to privacy nor liberty protections in the Constitution because their rights have no place in the history and tradition of the country.

Moreover, because the Constitution makes no explicit mention of "privacy", "sexual orientation", "gay", "lesbian", or "gay rights" anywhere, these rights could be challenged further. The constitutional recognition of same-sex marriage is, after all, only a recent phenomenon, both globally and nationally; with Massachusetts being the first U.S. state to recognise such marriages just 18 years ago (in 2004) and The Netherlands being the first country in the world to do so just 21 years ago (in 2000).

The bottom line is that if 50 year-old constitutionally guaranteed rights could be revoked today, then more recent and similarly, situated rights could also be revoked under an originalist reading of the Constitution.

Redefinition of liberty

Another key feature of the draft opinion is the court's re-examination of the meaning of the word "liberty" as found in the Fourteenth Amendment. In 1992, the *Casey* court affirmed what was already decided two decades ago in *Roe* – namely, that women in America had the "liberty" to an abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment. However, the *Dobbs* draft ruling discards this right to "liberty" just as it does the right to "privacy". Page 14 reads: "the clear answer is that the Fourteenth Amendment does not protect the right to an abortion". Interestingly, the Constitution also makes no explicit reference to fetuses as "people" nor any reference to marriage as a constitutional right, let alone marriage for people of the same sex or those of opposite races. But by specifically re-defining "liberty" and calling into question its applicability in the case of abortions, the court paves the way for potentially reviewing other "liberty" rights not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution – such as the right to travel (*Kent vs Dulles*, 1958), the right to inter-racial marriage (*Loving vs Virginia*, 1967), and the right to engage in same-sex activity in private (*Lawrence vs Texas*, 2003), among others.

As it stands now, *Roe* and *Casey* remain the law of the land; only time will tell what the final decision of the court will be, and when it will be announced. Either way, the final decision will most likely end *Roe* and usher in a new era for the abortion and gay rights debate in America.

Kanav Narayan Sahgal is Programme and Communications Manager, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and Nyaaya. He focuses on the domains of gender and sexuality research and advocacy (with a specific focus on LGBTQIA+ communities). The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Release and its message

By releasing A.G. Perarivalan, who was convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, the Supreme Court of India has finally spoken loud and clear in a landmark verdict. The verdict is also a wake-up call to expedite important hearings and enact prison reforms.

ADRIAN DAVID,
Chennai

■ Having a prisoner in jail for an indefinite period defies logic and is against the much-hyped reformatory model of criminal justice. But for the judiciary, many Perarivalans would have to be languishing in prisons. It is also time the Supreme Court of India lays down firm guidelines to prevent people in constitutional positions from passing the buck in sensitive cases.

GANAPATHI BHAT,
Akola, Maharashtra

■ Perarivalan's release was on the cards considering the oral observations of the Supreme Court of India in previous hearings. The divergent arguments as to who was to ultimately make the decision – the Governor concerned or the President of India – paved the way for the convict's release. In the present analysis of his release, the active involvement of Perarivalan or his innocence in the assassination loses significance. One is also provoked to introspect whether the executive delayed its decision wantonly to force the judiciary to intervene and order his release. Politicians may have cleverly wanted to play it safe to ensure their image is not tarnished.

V. LAKSHMANAN,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

■ It is a black day for India's democracy. The assassination was noted for being a rarest of rare case, crores of rupees were spent in the very pain-staking and top-notch investigation, with the setting up of a special court and long trials to strive for justice. The death penalty was commuted to life imprisonment. Now, one has the judiciary pronouncing its verdict – of ordering release. Is not assassinating a Prime Minister a crime? Should not there be life imprisonment? The scenes of celebration by certain Tamil leaders herald an equally dark day for the State of Tamil Nadu. Those behind bars in this case are not patriots. Glorifying the convicts and ignoring what was an act of terrorism cast a shadow on the assassination, reducing it to a trivial and insignificant event. Finally, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Congress are also 'close' political allies, so those who matter in the DMK ought to have considered the feelings of the family of the slain leader.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,
Chennai

The religion card

One does not have to revisit the past to know how the Ram Janmabhoomi dispute led to political mileage for the party in power now, and which continues to use the religion card to consolidate its rule. Genies out of wonder lamps are bound to stir up controversy. New India needs knowledge ('Gyan') to progress. And the Indian judiciary needs to put the genie back in the bottle.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

■ At a time when the country is grappling with pressing issues, vested interests seem hell bent upon whipping up communal passions. The ongoing attempts not only challenge the very spirit of the Places of Worship Act, but also threaten amity. It is hoped that good sense will prevail over religious bigots.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

On a quest for the real 'Pan-Indian' cinema

An empty celebration of the current southern blockbusters could limit exploration of radical themes

NISSIM MANNATHUKKAREN

The recent South Indian films, *Pushpa*, *RRR*, and *KGF 2* are rewriting Indian film history. A few years ago, it would have been unthinkable that a Telugu and Kannada film, dubbed in Hindi, would become the highest all-time grossers in Hindi. This has led to an animated discussion about not only the supposed decline of Bollywood but also the emergence of a new "pan-Indian" cinema.

The rise of the southern film industries, hitherto marginalised as "regional" cinema, and the challenge to the domination of Hindi cinema is indeed a welcome development. But its celebration as pan-Indian cinema, breaking language and culture barriers, is premature without discussing what these films represent. These three recent films (two of which have crossed the stratospheric collection record of ₹1,000 crore), and *Baahubali* before, indicate that they do not challenge dominant ideas of a homogenous nationalism, caste hierarchies, toxic masculinity, or gratuitous violence. Neither do they offer any cultural authenticity.

National market

Such "massified" commercial films (albeit in new linguistic registers and with vastly superior technical quotient and cinematic experience) targeting the national market and the "lowest common denominator", may in fact be counterproductive to the idea of linguistic/cultural plurality and the exploration of novel and progressive themes. Because the barriers to better, and world-class cinema is not merely the domination of Hindi films.

Recently, Telugu superstar Chiranjeevi spoke about the insult he felt in the 1980s at a national award function where Indian cinema was portrayed as Hindi cinema, and how the recent South films have become a vehicle to correct that notion. The same was also reflected in Kannada star Sudeep's comments on the claim of Hindi as the national language.

Yet, this "regional" claim for an equal place in Indian cinema does not refer to the exclusions, and cultural homogenisation performed by the mega-budget, pan-Indian film emerging from the South.

Super stardom: A promotional still from *KGF: Chapter 2*. • HOMBALE FILMS

Thus, *RRR*, for example, is steeped in a religious-inflected nationalism with a cartoonish and melodramatic take on colonialism: the evil British versus the good Indians. It is perfectly in sync with the present climate of aggressive nationalism even though it seeks to speak from a linguistic marginality. In this nationalism, while Subhas Bose, Sardar Patel, Bhagat Singh, Shivaji, and others from the South are unsurprisingly present, Gandhi, Ambedkar and Nehru are missing.

More seriously problematic is the appropriation of the trope of Adivasi liberation to the nationalist cause, and thus making it seem that the oppressors of Adivasis were merely the British. This is a move, as I have argued before, seen in movies like *Lagaan*. One of the two heroes Bheem, who is purportedly based on the legendary – but ignored – Gond leader Komaram Bheem, is shown in the film as asking the other protagonist Ram, a *savarna* Hindu, to educate him. This, writer Akash Poyam (a Gond himself) points out, casts Bheem as an innocent "noble savage" while in reality it was Komaram Bheem who coined the slogan, "*Jal, Jangal, Jameen*" which is shown as being inscribed by Ram in the film.

Other films like *Pushpa* and *KGF* are also not breaking any new ground, but reinforcing many of the tired *masala* conventions like a poor hero taking on the state-criminal nexus and as a saviour of the toiling masses, etc. Yet, they have been lauded as catering to small-town India, and the so-called masses, something which Bollywood has largely moved away from with its focus on the urban middle classes, the elite, NRIs and multiplexes. But this is a reductive understanding which posits the masses as capable of appreciating cinema only with excessive violence, misogyny and the low brow, and the urban rich as not the purveyors of the same. Yet, the recent blockbusters drew big crowds in the multiplexes as well as in the diasporic audiences.

Similarly, some scholars have argued that the success of *Pushpa* and *KGF* is that they exemplify the local against the nationalist rhetoric of the Hindi cinema, a contention that is questioned by the success of *Baahubali* and *RRR*.

Beyond binaries

There is a need to go beyond such simple/only binaries of local vs. national, class vs. mass and Hindi vs. non-Hindi, or the anointing of new formulaic productions with monster budgets and targeting the national market as a pan-Indian film. Instead, there is a need to conceive pan-Indian cinema as one which is socially and cinematically expanding boundaries, culturally rooted and yet nationally/globally resonant, and as one which is a conversation among the languages.

The seeds of such a pan-Indian cinema were already present before the market success of the recent South blockbusters.

Pushing the envelope

For a decade now, the "new generation" films in Malayalam have rewritten Indian cinema history in their own way, and have captured national attention, especially since the flourishing of OTT platforms. There has been an explosion of films, especially small ones, dealing with an array of subjects and pushing the envelope in so many directions. Films like *Maheshinte Prathikaram*, *Ozhivudivasathe Kali*, *Ottal*, *Angamaly Diaries*, *Kumbalangi Nights*, *Jallikattu*, *The Great Indian Kitchen*, *Pada*, and so many others became successful because they moved away from male superstar-driven formulas.

Yet, if new Malayalam cinema has not fully contended with caste, there has been a veritable revolution in tackling caste oppression in Tamil cinema from the 2010s with films like *Attakathi*, *Madras*, *Kabali*, *Kaala*, *Pariyerum Perumal*, *Asuran*, *Karnan*, *Sarpatta Parambarai* and *Jai Bhim*. They also showed that films with radical themes are not dichotomous with superstars starring in them or mass commercial success. The latter was also proved with the huge all-India success of the Marathi film *Sairat*.

An empty celebration of the present southern blockbusters as pan-Indian cinema is scotching the above trends besides ignoring other possibilities within Kannada and Telugu industries themselves which produced excellent small films and cultural nuggets like *Thithi* and *C/o Kancharapalem*.

Thus, the scope for a real pan-Indian cinema is immense but can be only realised by the infrastructure (theatrical, and not just OTT) to experience the best cinematic content across different Indian languages. Until the Indian audience is able to, for instance, watch the National Award winning *Byari*, in the tiny Beary language, or the internationally acclaimed *Khasi* film *Iewduh* in their own languages (not just in English), the idea of a real pan-Indian cinema would be stillborn.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is with Dalhousie University, Canada, and tweets @nmannathukkaren

Will replacing PhD professors with practitioners work?

The challenges in this approach need to be analysed

SIDDHARTH SINGH

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently announced that it will do away with the mandatory PhD qualification to teach in Central Universities (CUs) spread across the country. It purportedly addresses a shortage of qualified faculty in CUs. According to the Ministry of Education data, there were 10,000 teaching positions lying vacant in CUs as of December 2021.

Industry experts and professional practitioners from different fields with domain expertise will be brought in to address the shortage by creating special positions of Professor and Associate Professor of Practice. Recently, UGC Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar stated that the New Education Policy (NEP) "emphasises better collaboration with industries. The experts need to have demonstrated experience in a given domain." On the face of it, this appears well-intentioned. However, it also raises an important question. What is the main problem that the UGC is trying to solve? Is it a *carte blanche* to do away with PhDs to meet the shortfall? Are we going to treat PhDs and other professors as equals? If so, it should not be. It is a treacherous path laden with umpteen challenges.

What value do good PhDs bring to teaching? Besides imparting cutting-edge knowledge with a sound conceptual base that is relevant for a long time, they train and equip students with skills to face real-life challenges. PhD teachers are trained to answer "how" and "why" questions. Fundamentally they are researchers. Besides transferring existing knowledge to students, they are supposed to create new knowledge through long and deep investigations of relevant issues using academic rigour. They come out with concepts and theories tested and retested by others.

Such fundamental understanding is applicable across industries. To use a marketing example, the theory that rational consumers choose based on perceived superior value will be eternal and unchanging. However, the way a business organisation can create value would change depending on contextual characteristics, consumer behaviour, and available technology. A good PhD teacher would focus on the relevant theories and show how they are applied in practice in various contexts to equip students to face current and future challenges.

Practitioners bring knowledge and deep expertise relevant to specific contexts and applications. However, the fast-changing business and technological environment result in limited shelf-life experiences. Since non-PhDs are not trained to conduct original research, they reproduce what others have created to keep their teaching current. Such teachers are typically less aware of the concepts and theoretical frameworks related to their practice domain. These limitations would result in students getting knowledge that may be of great value but in a limited context. In our fast-paced world facilitated by technology, change is the only constant. Therefore, only contractual teaching positions would make sense for practitioners.

Another critical issue is: How would an institution judge the quality of a practitioner it hires? Using the number of years' of work experience in a field as a yardstick to gauge a practitioner's potential as a teacher could be misleading.

Although practitioners who understand both academic rigour and theories can make excellent teachers, sometimes even better than a typical PhD teacher, evaluating them is a significant challenge. Also, a relevant and continuous monitoring system is needed to assess the teaching performance of practitioners; else, they become archaic. Since students cannot adequately evaluate the material taught to them, PhDs are better suited to assess a practitioner's potential as a teacher and thinker.

A mixed model

A workable and sustainable solution to this situation is to have a mix of practitioners and traditional academicians, as many business schools in India and abroad have realised and implemented, resulting in significant positive outcomes. They first hire PhDs to meet their requirements. Then they hire a limited number of practitioners as clinical and adjunct faculty on contract for a limited time to fulfil specific teaching needs. The responsibilities and evaluation of both these categories of faculty are also different. PhDs still maintain strict quality control.

Where control rests with practitioners, quality is likely to suffer. The final losers will be students for whose benefit the whole system is being designed in the first place. CUs can take a leaf out of the business school experience and devise a model that fits them.

Siddharth Singh is Associate Professor of Marketing at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Mohali. The views expressed are personal

STATE OF PLAY

The other meat

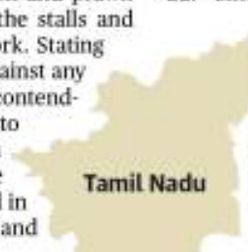
Controversy over the ban of beef at a proposed food festival in Tamil Nadu refuses to fade

D. SURESH KUMAR

Connoisseurs of non-vegetarian food would swear by the lingering taste of Tamil Nadu's Ambur biryani filled with succulent pieces of meat that supposedly melts in the mouth. It is distinct and popular, just as Hyderabadi biryani is in the culinary world.

Naturally, when the Tirupattur district administration recently announced a three-day Ambur Biryani Thiruvizha (festival), the foodies were excited. So were the restaurateurs, keen on getting the Geographical Indication tag for the spicy dish.

Amidst the excitement a controversy erupted when Tirupattur Collector Amar Kushwaha mandated only chicken, mutton, fish and prawn biryani be served at the stalls and "banned" beef and pork. Stating he is personally not against any meat, Mr. Kushwaha contended he did not want to hurt Hindu or Muslim sentiments, as one group had represented in favour of pork biryani and another wanted beef.



Beef is on the menu in many restaurants in Ambur. While over 97% of Tamil Nadu's population consumes non-vegetarian food, beef remains a delicacy for a section of the population. As per the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of the NSSO [three rounds spanning a decade until 2011-12], beef-consumers stood at 31.4 lakh, i.e over 5% of the State's population. Oxtail soup and beef *pakoda* are patronised in street-side stalls.

Alongside the emergence of cow vigilantism in India, the Dravidian State has witnessed incidents of "othering" beef. In 2015, the AIADMK government banned a beef banquet and a voluntary '*thali (mangalsutra)* removal' event in Chennai organised by the Dravidar Kazhagam.

The Tirupattur Collector's ban on the poor man's meat at a government festival irked even the allies of the ruling DMK. Vanni Arasu of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, which predominantly represents the cause of the Scheduled Castes, argued that excluding the food of a particular community goes against Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's 'Dravidian Model' of governance.

Incidentally, five years ago against the backdrop of an attack on a Ph.D. scholar at IIT-Madras for partaking beef and the Centre's restrictions on cattle trade, Mr. Stalin had said the government could not deny the fundamental rights of people over choice of food. He rhetorically posed: "Are we supposed to eat only what [Prime Minister] Modi likes?"

The then State BJP president Tamilisai Soundararajan – now Telangana Governor – had challenged Mr. Stalin to consume beef, adding, "We will see what happens in Tamil Nadu." Since the majority population does not consume beef, she was suggesting there could be electoral consequences for the DMK. The BJP, in its 2021 election manifesto, promised a ban on cow slaughter unaware that slaughtering cows is illegal in Tamil Nadu since 1976.

While the Chief Minister did not react to the latest controversy, the Collector at the eleventh hour put off the biryani festival citing forecast of rains.

The controversy remains alive. The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the SC/STs has asked Mr. Kushwaha to explain why his decision to "specifically" exclude beef biryani, "shall not be taken as a discrimination on a communal basis, and initiate action for such an official discrimination". The Commission took up the matter for enquiry [deeming it] "as a practice of untouchability in the form of discrimination against SC/ST and the Muslim population".

Mr. Kushwaha had told *The Hindu* since the event has been put off, the notice "is null and void". It is doubtful if the Commission would endorse his interpretation. Meanwhile, it remains to be seen whether the Ambur Biryani Festival would be held on a later date as assured by officials. If so, would Mr. Stalin ensure there is no restriction on the choice of food?

sureshkumar.d@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

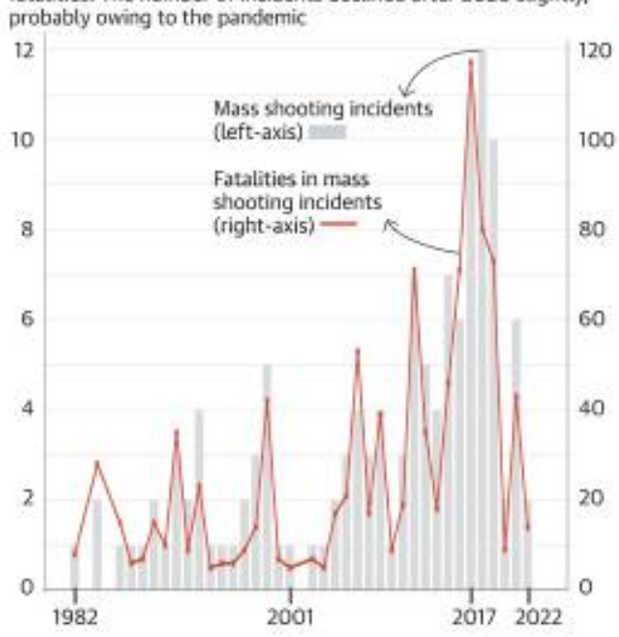
The gun shop where Payton Gendron purchased his weapon is pictured. • REUTERS

Racist attacks shoot to new highs in the U.S.

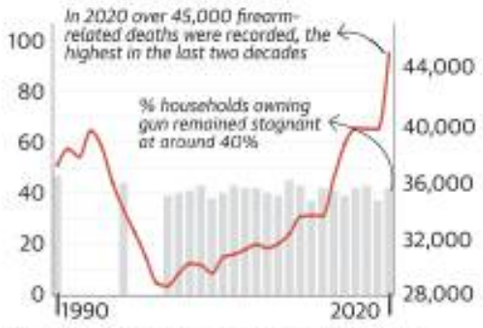
On Saturday, an 18-year-old White man walked into a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighbourhood in Buffalo, New York, and gunned down 10 people. Officials told the Associated Press that the shooter targeted the area with the intention to kill as many Black people as he could. The shooter, identified as Payton Gendron, used a legally purchased Bushmaster XM-15, a semi-automatic rifle similar to an AR-15. Mass shootings have become more frequent in the United States with the number of such incidents rising significantly since 2017, declining slightly after 2020 due to the pandemic. This comes despite legal gun ownership remaining largely constant. Data shows that hate crimes have been increasing over the past few years, with Black people being the worst affected. Still, over 50% of White conservatives don't think gun violence is a "big problem". By **Sonikka Loganathan**

❶ Breaking Records

The chart shows that the frequency of mass shootings has risen dramatically since 2017, which saw the highest number of fatalities. The number of incidents declined after 2020 slightly, probably owing to the pandemic



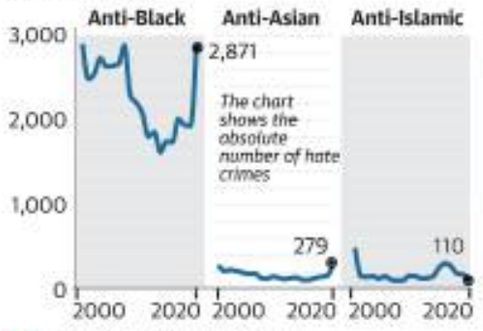
❷ Caught in the fire | Firearm-related deaths — include suicide, accidents and murders (including victims of mass-shootings). While these numbers have been rising since 2000, legal gun ownership has remained largely constant



The increase in 2020 has been attributed to a spike in suicide rates during the COVID-19 lockdown, by the CDC

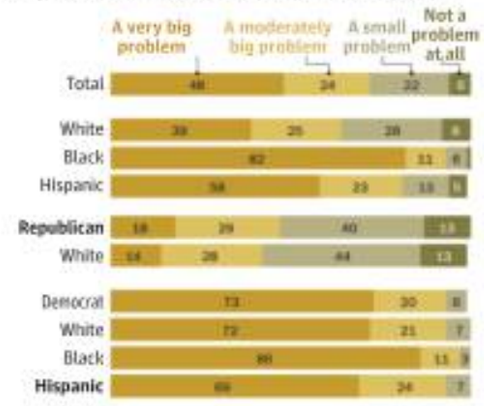
❸ Us vs. Them

Hate crimes are at the highest level in over a decade. Black people make up the largest portion of victims, with the community witnessing nearly 1,000 more crimes in 2020 compared to 2019. In 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement took centre stage, following a peak in racially charged acts of violence



❹ Problem, for whom?

According to the Pew Research Center, Black Democrats are most concerned about gun violence, with over 90% saying that it was a "very or moderately big problem" in 2021. However, only 42% of White Republicans shared this view



Source:Mother Jones mass shooting database, Firearm deaths: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Gun ownership: Gallup, FBI, Pew Research Center

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1972

Soviet rockets on way to Hanoi

Peking: Sophisticated Soviet rockets and other weapons and equipment are moving across China by rail to help North Vietnam beat President Nixon's blockade of its ports, authoritative Soviet diplomatic sources said here today. Speaking four days before Mr. Nixon is due to arrive in the Kremlin for summit talks, the Soviet sources said the American blockade would not affect Soviet military aid to the North Vietnamese. At the same time, a Western diplomat said Chinese officials had told them the Peking government would "put no obstacle in the way" of Soviet and other aid from the Eastern European bloc to their mutual North Vietnamese ally. A high-powered North Vietnamese delegation, including the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Ly Bay and the Communications and Railways Minister, Brig. Phan Trong Tue, was in China to coordinate Soviet and Chinese deliveries to Hanoi despite the mining of North Vietnamese ports. Two railways from Kunming and Nanning cross from China into North Vietnam though sources here say, it is believed there are other less-known railway lines and roads from China into North Vietnam.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 19, 1922

Swadeshi and Khaddar

Practical effect has been given to resolution No. I, by another resolution sanctioning Rs. 10,000 decidedly a meagre sum for the production and distribution of Khaddar and the opening of a depot at a suitable centre in Coimbatore. With this amount, a Khaddar depot has already been opened in Tiruppur, the busiest cotton centre and Khaddar producing place in Southern India. Tiruppur with a network of busy villages around and Coimbatore in general, has immense scope for Khaddar development, which will give us Khaddar clothing enough for this province and to spare for others too. There is already the Kongu handspinning and weaving factory managed by Mr. P.D. Asher Sait, a member of the A.I.C.C. with a loan advanced by this committee, there is another enterprise for production of Khadi, perhaps the earliest that was started in this part of the country run by Mr. M.V. Karruppauna Chettiar. The newly started one is under the direct management of the secretary of this committee but with all these efforts, we have not been able to do full justice to the immense possibilities for Khaddar production.

FROM PAGE ONE

Supreme Court frees Perarivalan

In the long years of litigation, the Centre had initially assured the Supreme Court that the Governor would take a call on Perarivalan's pardon plea, only to suddenly change track in November 2020 to say that it was the President, under advice of the Centre, who was authorised to decide the plea.

The Centre had banked on a Constitution Bench judgment in *Union of India versus v. Sriharan* in December 2015, to argue that Section 432(7)(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) gave primacy to the Union and not the States when the case was tried under a law to which the executive power of the Union extended to.

An affidavit filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs last year had submitted that the President of India was the "appropriate competent authority" to deal with Perarivalan's request for freedom.

However, Perarivalan's lawyers, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Prabu Ramasubramanian, used the same Sriharan judgment to counter that the power of State or Central governments to remit sentences under Section 432 Cr.PC and the clemency power of the President or the Governor could not be equated with each other.

Power of pardon

The constitutional power of pardon of the President or Governor was "untouchable and unapproachable and cannot suffer the vicissitudes of simple legislative processes", they had argued.

The Centre had also, over the years, highlighted that the case against Perarivalan concerned the assassination of none other than a former Prime Minister. Forty-three other people had sustained serious injuries in the bomb explosion at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu in 1991.

But Perarivalan had contended that his role in the crime extended to supplying two nine-volt batteries without the knowledge of what it was going to be used for. He said his confession under the lapsed TADA to a police officer was not valid evidence.

He said he was a "19-year-old boy when his mother handed him over to the CBI... and now has lost all his prime youth in prison, that too, in death row under solitary confinement for more than 16 years". He said his "aged mother and father were waiting for their only son to join them at least in the last years of their life".

SC allows OBC quota for M.P. local body polls

The application asserted that these crucial facts had not been placed before the court prior to the order.

The court noted in its order: "To reassure ourselves, we have gone through the two reports submitted by the dedicated commission concerning the determination of reservation to be provided for Other Backward Classes in local bodies in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The second report focuses on the local body wise reservation for the other backward classes by keeping in mind the maximum reservation limit of 50% enunciated by this court. We may not be understood to have expressed any final opinion either way on the validity or correctness of this report and if some challenge is set up against this report, that may have to be considered on its own merits in accordance with law."

The court permitted the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission to notify the programme for the local bodies keeping in mind the delimitation notification already issued as on date, that is, till Wednesday, and the report submitted by the Backward Classes Commission.

It directed the Election Commission of India (EC) to ensure that the election programme was issued for local bodies where the polls are already overdue without further loss of time and keeping in mind the feasibility of conducting elections.

Collapse of law

The court said it would be open to the EC to later on modulate the schedule, as and when occasion arises. "We permit the State of Madhya Pradesh to notify the reservation pattern local body wise to be adhered to by the State Election Commission within one week. The State Election Commission shall notify the election programme in respect of the concerned local bodies thereafter within one week," the court ordered.

On May 10, the court had noted that years of delay in conducting elections to over 23,000 local bodies in Madhya Pradesh "borders on the breakdown of the rule of law".

It had declared that State Election Commissions across the country could not skip their Constitutional obligation to conduct polls to local bodies every five years.

The Bench had laid down that the EC could not reel out grounds like ongoing delimitation or the formation of new wards to delay elections where it was due.

Hardik Patel hits out at Congress, calls it quits

"Today I courageously resign from the post of Congress party and primary membership of the party. I am sure that my decision will be welcomed by all my colleagues and the people of Gujarat. I believe that after this step, I will be able to work positively for Gujarat in future," he said on Twitter posting his three-page resignation letter.

For over a month, Mr. Patel had been publicly criticising the Congress leadership and State leaders, accusing them of not allowing him to work and stifling his efforts to revive the party in the State ahead of the Assembly poll due in November.

Mr. Patel had skipped the Congress's three-day brainstorming session in Udaipur, where the top brass of the party from across the country gathered to deliberate and discuss strategies for the party's revival ahead of the national polls to be held in 2024.

He was last seen with Congress leaders on May 10 when Rahul Gandhi held a tribal convention in Dahod, in which Mr. Gandhi showered his praises on another young leader and prominent Dalit activist Jignesh Mevani.

It became apparent on May 16 that Mr. Patel may part ways with the Congress, and the party leaders hit back at him for his constant remarks against the State leaders.

Mr. Patel, who rose to fame in 2015 when he spearheaded a powerful Patidar agitation for quotas in jobs and education, praised the BJP leadership and said he was a "proud Hindu".

As SC allows OBC quota, Chouhan targets Nath

Congress leader says court verdict vindicates party stand and it will continue to push for 27% reservation

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
MANDLA

Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress welcomed the Supreme Court's decision allowing reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in local body elections in Madhya Pradesh, though the BJP appeared more upbeat.

Claiming credit for Wednesday's decision, party workers celebrated at the BJP's State headquarters in Bhopal, with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan showing up unscheduled to address them.

The Congress, on the other hand, accused the State government of letting the OBC community down by failing to present the facts properly before the court, terming the 14% reservation for them inadequate.

Mr. Chouhan, who hails from an OBC community and leads a Cabinet that includes nearly a dozen Ministers from the community, was on the offensive, triumphantly targeting former Chief Minister and State Congress president Kamal Nath for "obstructing the elections and preventing OBCs from getting the benefits of reservation".

'Historic verdict'

"The Congress does not want the welfare of any section of society, including the OBCs. So when they announced a 27% reservation while in power, there was a stay. When the court put a stay, their Advocate-General did not appear in the court. They stand exposed. Kamal Nath will have to answer and he cannot hide," he said triumphantly. Earlier, Mr. Chouhan had described the verdict as historic and overwhelming.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mr. Chouhan said how his government had made every effort to ensure that such an order was issued. "For triple test, we constituted the OBC Commission. The OBC Commission toured the entire

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan celebrating with BJP leaders after the SC order on Wednesday. • A.M.FARUQUI

State, went from one village to another, conducted extensive surveys and made a report on the basis of those facts, we submitted that report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court."

Mr. Nath said the verdict had vindicated the Congress's stand and that the party would continue to push for 27% reservation for OBCs.

Notably, reservation cannot exceed 50%, and 36% of the seats in the local bodies are already reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST).

"We were saying from the very first day that elections for panchayat and urban bodies should not be held in Madhya Pradesh without OBC reservation, [and] the government should take all necessary steps regarding this," Mr. Nath said. "We had also fought in the House regarding OBC reservation and after that, the resolution was also passed unanimously that panchayat and urban body elections should not be held in Madhya Pradesh without OBC reservation. The Shivraj government snatched that right from the OBC category."

Bandh call

OBC leaders such as Lokendra Gurjar, the president of OBC, SC, ST Ekta Manch, said that 14% reservation was not enough for the community that constituted over 50% of the population.

"This means we will have far fewer seats than we earlier held in the nagar panchayats, zila parishads and gram panchayats. The government has failed to explain our position and demands clearly and we will protest this. We had announced a Madhya Pradesh bandh on May 21 and we will go ahead with it despite today's [Wednesday] order," he said.

Others believe that, for the time being, the CM can see this as a win, though the demands will not die down easily.

"Shivraj Singh Chouhan will certainly emerge stronger in public perception and today's [Wednesday] verdict will definitely help him enhance his stature within the government and the organisation. This will blunt the Opposition and check murmurs within the party," Loktantrik Samajwadi Party patron Raghu Thakur said.

The Bhopal-based Mr. Thakur, who has authored books explaining the nuances of India's reservation policy, said the battle on the OBC front was by no means over as there would be pressure on Mr. Chouhan and his government to increase the quota. He cited the example of Tamil Nadu, which provides reservation above the mandated limit of 50%.

SC seeks agency response to Christian Michel's bail plea

The accused middleman has spent four years as undertrial

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on May 18 asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to respond to a plea for bail made by Christian Michel, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland VVIP helicopter deal scam.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud remarked that Mr. Michel has already spent nearly four years behind bars as an undertrial while issuing notice to the CBI and the ED. The court scheduled the next hearing in mid-July, post the summer vacation.

"I have undergone the maximum sentence as per the provisions. The investigation is still not complete. I have undergone three years and six months as of now and I was in custody in Dubai before my extradition,"

Christian Michel

Mr. Michel, represented by advocates Aljo Joseph, Sriram Parakkat and M.S. Vishnu Shankar, said.

The lawyers argued that their client was a businessman with networks spread across the globe and it was important for him to prove his innocence.

The petition said Mr. Michel had already undergone 600 hours of custodial interrogation by both the CBI and the ED.

Most of the others named as accused by the agencies have either "never been arrested" or they have been enlarged on bail.

The petition said the "illegal detention, deportation and custody" of Mr. Michel had been assailed by the United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

The plea argued that Mr. Michel could not be punished for the same offence for which he has been exonerated in Italy. They argued that Article 20(2) of the Constitution to not to be prosecuted or punished for the same offence twice and similar tenets of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime should be read conjointly.

Indrani Mukerjea gets bail in Sheena Bora murder case

She is in jail for over 6 years with no sign of the trial ending

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted bail to Indrani Mukerjea, who is in jail for over six years after she was arrested for allegedly murdering her daughter Sheena Bora.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, without commenting on the merits of the case against her, noted that she had been incarcerated for six-and-a-half years and there seemed to be no early completion of trial.

"Even if 50% of the witnesses are given up by prosecution, the trial will not be over soon. She is granted bail. She will be released on bail subject to satisfaction of trial court," the Bench ordered.

The conditions of her bail would be similar to those of

Indrani Mukerjea

Peter Mukerjea, the co-accused in the case and out on bail since 2020.

The Bench remarked that six-and-a-half years in jail without any chance of the trial ending soon was too long a time.

Notice to CBI

The court had earlier issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Maharashtra on her bail application.

Ms. Mukerjea was denied bail by the Bombay High Court last November. She is lodged in the Byculla prison in Mumbai. She was arrested in August 2015 and denied bail multiple times by the special court. The lower courts had expressed apprehension that she could influence witnesses or tamper with evidence.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for Ms. Mukerjea, had argued that the trial court had several more witnesses to be examined, and at this rate, proceedings would drag on for another decade. Mr. Rohatgi said the trial court had been without a presiding officer since June last year. Ms. Mukerjea was unwell, he said.

Sheena Bora was killed in 2012.

Jaishankar to attend BRICS meeting

It is the first meet of BRICS Foreign Ministers since Russia's invasion of Ukraine

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will on Thursday join his counterparts from China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa in a virtual meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers, coming ahead of the leaders' summit expected next month.

The leaders' summit this year will also be held virtually, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi joining China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. This will be the first BRICS leaders' gathering since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with the grouping emerging as a valuable platform for an isolated Russia that is facing crippling sanctions from the West.

China has broadly backed Russia's stand on Ukraine. It has blamed NATO for the crisis, and called for the "legitimate security concerns" of all countries to be respected – a position that BRICS is

S. Jaishankar

likely to endorse. Mr. Xi will host the summit next month as China is the chair of BRICS for this year. The summit, as well as Thursday's meeting to be chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, will include other emerging countries as part of the "BRICS Plus" mechanism, aimed at growing the footprint of the five-member grouping. Argentina has confirmed it will attend both meetings.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday that the Foreign Ministers' virtual meeting on Thursday will see the five countries take part in a "BRICS Plus dialogue" and send a message of solidarity on giving developing countries a greater say in global governance.

The "BRICS Plus" mechanism is seen as a way for the five countries to broaden their outreach with other developing countries, although the group is unlikely to include new members. The BRICS-backed New Development Bank has, however, already inducted new members, with Bangladesh and the UAE joining last year, and Egypt and Uruguay set to join the financial institution.

Sanctions against Russia

Russia is hoping that its cooperation with BRICS countries can help reduce some of the pressures it is facing under Western sanctions, which none of the BRICS countries have supported.

Speaking at the BRICS Finance Ministers meeting last month, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov called for the use of national currencies for BRICS countries, integration of payment systems, their own financial messaging system, and the creation of a BRICS rating agency.

But beyond statements of support, the BRICS countries may, however, only be able to offer limited assistance to Russia on circumventing sanctions. Even Chinese financial institutions, for instance, have largely been adhering to Western sanctions fearing the repercussions of being targeted for violating them. The BRICS New Development Bank announced in March that it had suspended all projects in Russia.

U.S. Special Coordinator Uzra Zeya being welcomed by Tibetans in Dharamshala. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

U.S. official meets Tibetan delegates

Zeya is expected to call on Dalai Lama

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

U.S. Special Coordinator on Tibet Uzra Zeya met with the *Sikyong* or leader of the self-styled Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Penpa Tsering, and other officials and representatives of the Tibetan community on a public visit to Dharamshala by a U.S. official for the first time in three years on Wednesday. Facilitated by New Delhi, the visit is seen as a strong message from the Modi government to China, which protests what it calls "meddling" in Tibet.

In the past few years, while Tibetan officials and the Dalai Lama had visited Washington, no senior U.S. official has visited the Himachal town where the "government-in-exile" is based. In 2017, a U.S. Congressional delegation led by former Speaker Nancy Pelosi had visited Dharamshala, as did U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Juster in 2018 and U.S. Ambassador on religious freedom Sam Brownback in 2019.

During a visit to Delhi, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had met representatives of the CTA and the Dalai Lama in 2021. At the time, China had issued a stern statement against the meeting, calling "any form of contact between the U.S. side and the Dalai clique" a violation of previous American commitments on a "One China" policy.

Ms. Zeya is expected to meet with the Dalai Lama on Thursday.

Ms. Zeya is holding meetings pertaining to her other role as U.S. Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights. In Delhi on Tuesday, she met with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, launching a plan for India to lead a "cohort" on electoral integrity as a part of President Biden's "Democracy Summit" this year.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)

NGT not a case of extra delegation of powers: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Parliament did not excessively delegate power to the Centre by authorising it to establish the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Supreme Court held in a judgment on Wednesday. The NGT is a "unique" institution established for enforcement of environmental rights protected under the Right to Life.

"The NGT came into existence as a *sui generis* institution established for the enforcement of environmental rights emanating from Article 21 of the Constitution... NGT was not an excessive case of delegation of powers to the central government," a Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy observed in the judgment.

Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal resigns

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

In a move that caught the entire administrative and political machinery of the national capital by surprise, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal tendered his resignation here on Wednesday.

Government sources said Mr. Baijal cited personal reasons and his advanced age in his resignation letter. He also mentioned that he had contracted COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic.

The career bureaucrat, according to sources close to him, believed firmly in maintaining a low profile, away from media's glare, non-confrontational administration and inter-departmental coordination. Mr. Baijal, in his mid-70s, was appointed to the post on December 31, 2016.

For Perarivalan, turning point was commuting of death penalty

SC had said pleas under Articles 72 and 161 can be disposed of at a faster pace

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The wheel began turning in favour of Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict A.G. Perarivalan on February 18, 2014, when a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by then Chief Justice of India P. Sathasivam commuted the death penalty of his and two others to life sentence and made a strong observation in the verdict that "apex constitutional authorities" like the President and the Governor must exercise their clemency powers under Articles 72 and 161, respectively, within the "bounds of constitutional discipline" and in an "expeditious manner".

Prior to the February 18, 2014 judgment, Perarivalan was facing death which never came despite decades of waiting for it behind the walls of the Vellore prison. His pleas against the death penalty had met with failure.

The apex court had, in May 1999, upheld the TADA court's verdict of death for Perarivalan. The court had also quickly dismissed his review petition five months later. The Tamil Nadu Governor had dismissed the mercy petitions of the convicts the same October. The Governor repeated the act of rejection of mercy in April 2000.

The President took 11 whole years to reject his mercy plea on August 12, 2011. Perarivalan and two of his co-convicts, Murugan and Santhan, had filed writ petitions in the Madras High Court against the prolonged delay of over a decade before the rejection. They said they had "swung between life and death" every day of the waiting.

The three petitions were transferred by the Supreme Court to itself from the High Court. Bringing the first ray of hope to Perarivalan, the Bench of Chief Justice (as he was then) Sathasivam, Ranjan Gogoi and Shiv Kirti Singh agreed that "inordinate delay" caused at the hands of the executive to decide the convicts' mercy petitions was a violation of their fundamental right under Article 21 and was reason enough to commute their capital punishment to life sentence. The Bench agreed with an earlier decision of the Supreme Court in the *Shatrugnan Chauhan* case that such delay amounted to "torture".

In a short but poignant judgment which reproduced several letters from three convicts to the government describing how the delay was killing them and every day was a "living death", Chief Justice Sathasivam, who authored the verdict, chastised that "mercy petitions filed under Articles 72/161 can be disposed of at a much faster pace than what is adopted now, if the due procedure prescribed by law is followed in verbatim".

"The fact that no time limit is prescribed to the President/Governor for disposal of the mercy petition should compel the government to work in a more systematised manner to repose the confidence of the people in the institution of democracy..." Justice Sathasivam noted.

Though Justice Sathasivam's judgment dealt with commutation of Perarivalan's death penalty to life and Justice L. Nageswar Rao's judgment on Wednesday was regarding his release from the case itself, the spirit and message of both judgments are the same, that is, decisions under Articles 72 and 161 should be swift.

Sense of relief: A.G. Perarivalan celebrates at his residence in Jolarpet, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday. • C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Centre's inaction allowed release of convict: Cong.

Deeply pained and disappointed at SC order, says party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The country is saddened and disappointed by the decision of the Supreme Court to release A.G. Perarivalan, who was convicted in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress said on Wednesday and blamed the Narendra Modi government's "inaction" that allowed the court to take such a decision.

If those convicted for the assassination of a former Prime Minister is released like this then who will uphold the majesty of law, asked party general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala at a press conference.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his government need to answer today: Is this your duplicity and double speak on terrorism? Are you going to be complicit in release of terrorists and murderers of the former Prime Minister of this country? Is it acquiescence by silence?" Mr. Surjewala said.

The Congress leader said a September 9, 2018 recommendation by the previous AIADMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the inaction by the Governor and the President of India, who is advised by the Union Council of Ministers, paved the way for the release of the convicts serving a life term.

Randeep Surjewala

Sorrow and fury

"There is a sorrow and fury not only in every Congress worker, but in every Indian who believes in India and Indianness, who believes in fighting against extremism and every force that challenges the sovereignty and integrity of India," Mr. Surjewala said, adding, "A terrorist is a terrorist and should be treated as one. Today, we are deeply pained and disappointed at the decision of the Supreme Court ordering the release of Rajiv Gandhi's assassin".

He said it doesn't augur well for democracy and the Constitution if the "assassin of a former Prime Minister is allowed to come out of jail because the present government had adversarial relations with the former Prime Minister".

'No ill will'

When pointed out that members of the Gandhi family, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi, had publicly stated that they don't bear ill-will against the convicts, Mr. Surjewala said, " Rahul*ji*, Priyanka*ji*, Sonia*ji*, harbour no ill will for they believe in the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha where you pardon anybody who has harmed you... but, that does not change the law and the Constitution of this country".

Governor is a shorthand for State govt.: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Governor of a State is "but a shorthand expression for the State government" while exercising powers of clemency under Article 161 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court said in its judgment releasing Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan on Wednesday.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao, referring to Constitution Bench judgments, recorded that "in the matter of exercise of the powers under Articles 72 and 161, the two highest dignitaries (President and Governor) in our constitutional scheme must act not on their own judgment but in accordance with the aid and advice of the Ministers".

"The constitutional conclusion is that the Governor is but a shorthand expression for the State government," Justice Rao wrote in the judgment.

The court had held that the Tamil Nadu Governor's refusal to abide by the State Cabinet's recommendation to release Perarivalan and forward his pardon plea to the President was against the constitutional scheme.

Though the Governor was the "formal head and sole repository of the executive power", the court said he or she would be bound by the advice of the State's Council of Ministers under Article 161 "whether the Governor likes it or not". "The action of commutation and release can thus be pursuant to a governmental decision and the order may issue even without the Governor's approval although, under the Rules of Business and as a matter of constitutional courtesy, it is obligatory that the signature of the Governor should authorise the pardon, commutation or release," the Supreme Court reiterated the constitutional position laid down by judicial precedents over the years.

SP, BSP allege BJP role behind Gyanvapi row

Bid to divert attention, they say

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, the main Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh, have taken a combative stand against the BJP on the Gyanvapi mosque court proceedings, and alleged the role of the ruling party in the ongoing legal controversy.

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Wednesday said the BJP and its allies were selectively targeting specific religious places to divert public attention from increasing poverty, unemployment and soaring inflation. "The situation could deteriorate any moment due to this," Ms. Mayawati said here.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the Gyanvapi issue was a "conspiracy" of the BJP and its "invisible friends" and "hidden friends".

The BJP rakes up Gyanvapi-like events directly or through its invisible or hidden friends, he said. "On the BJP's directions, its invisible associates emerge and deliberately sow seeds of hate," Mr. Yadav said.

Congress, DMK differ on Perarivalan's release

T.N. CM Stalin hails verdict, Cong. leader Surjewala says long jail term not a criterion for pardon

SOBHANA K. NAIR
SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court order to release Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan has led to differences between the Congress and one of its closest allies, the DMK.

On a day Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin hailed the verdict, the Congress criticised the BJP for creating the necessary situation that led to the top court's decision to release a "terrorist" held for the assassination of the former Prime Minister.

In a starkly contrasting stand, Mr. Stalin said Perarivalan had spent 32 years in prison and lost his youth behind bars, and was finally able to smell freedom. "I convey my wishes to him."

The Congress for now remains mum on the DMK's divergent stand. At a press conference in Delhi, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala directed his attack solely at the BJP. He sidestepped a pointed question on whether the Congress would break the alliance because of the differences in views. "Everybody is entitled to their opinion," he said. Mr. Surjewala also dismissed the argument that Periarvalan had already spent 32 years in prison. "If that is the criterion, then we should perhaps release all those serving a life sentence, which includes many of our Tamil brothers and sisters too. Why only release the murderers of Rajiv Gandhi? Why don't we bring a change in rule and lay down a fixed term for a life sentence?"

NEWS ANALYSIS

The disparate stand comes on the heels of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's comment that regional parties cannot fight the battle of ideology. Though there were adverse reactions from its allies, the Shiv Sena and the RJD, the DMK did not speak out.

On February 28, Mr. Gandhi was invited to the launch of Mr. Stalin's autobiography. There was clear political message in extending the invitation, since it came barely two weeks after Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reached out to Mr. Stalin as well as Telangana CM and TRS chief K. Chandrashekhar Rao to forge a front of regional parties against the BJP.

More recently, the DMK reserved one of the four Rajya Sabha seats to the Congress in the upcoming polls.

A DMK MP in Delhi said allies need not concur with each other on every issue and an occasional difference of opinion would not dent the alliance. The Congress, however, does not sound so hopeful. "For the last many months now, the DMK has been soft-pedalling on this issue. It definitely creates a friction between us," a Congress MP from T.N. said.

'Sacked advocate commissioner should submit mosque survey videos'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Hindu plaintiffs in the Shringar Gauri case in Varanasi have pleaded before a local court that Ajay Kumar Mishra, who was sacked as the advocate commissioner in the Gyanvapi mosque video inspection, be ordered to cooperate in completing the commission report by submitting the results of the photography and videography conducted under him in the initial stages of the survey.

Mr. Mishra had supervised the inspection work on May 6 and 7 before the proceedings were halted after objections by the caretakers of the Gyanvapi mosque who did not want videography to be conducted on the mosque premises. The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid accused Mr. Mishra of being "biased" and sought his removal. However, the court rejected the plea and appointed two other advocate commissioners in the matter along with Mr. Mishra to complete the inspection. The videography was then carried out jointly for three more days before Mr. Mishra was removed.

In an application in court, some of the five Hindu plaintiffs said that without Mr. Mishra's cooperation, the report would not be complete, which would amount to a legal lapse. The court on Thursday is also expected to take up a fresh plea filed by the Hindu plaintiffs seeking videography after demolishing or breaking open two walls of the mosque.

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD
Rupali Square, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha
Tel No.2542475, 2542617, FAX-2544828, Email : admin@tdccodisha.org

E-Auction Notification No : 1168 Date : 17.05.2022

E-Auction for Sale of Seeded Tamarind & De-Seeded Tamarind 2022 Crop procured under MSP Scheme through e-auction platform of MSTC Ltd (E — RaKAM), BSE — e-Agriculture Markets (BEaM) & NCDEX e-Market Ltd. The e-Auction will be held on 18.06.2022 & the same will be reflected in **www.mstcecommerce.com**, **www.bsebeam.com** & **www.neml.in**. Any changes/modification in the auction documents will be posted on above websites.

Sd/- 17.05.2022
Managing Director
CAD-631 OIPR - 26005/11/0002/2223

भारत सरकार /Government of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग /Department of Space
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
Valiamala PO, Thiruvananthapuram -695 547
Phone:0471-2568603, Fax:0471-2568602, E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in

अध्येता के लिए आवेदन (केवल ऑनलाइन) आमंत्रित
Application for Research Fellow (Online Application only)
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites application for the following positions:

Name of Positions	Number of Positions
Junior Research Fellow (JRF)	02

For detailed advertisement and online application, please visit our website: https://www.iist.ac.in/career/3.
Advt. No. IIST/Admn/RF/T03/2022 Dated 19.05.2022

BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 024.
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.193-1/RUSA 2.0/TRP/BS/DATE:17.05.2022

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of Scientific instrument, Liquid Chromatography - Tandem Mass Spectrometery (LC-MS/MS). Detailed tender documents with specifications, terms and conditions etc., can be had from website **www.bdu.ac.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

The last date for receipt of the tenders in this office is - 20.06.2022 - 4.00 p.m

DIPR/2361/Tender/2022 **REGISTRAR i/c**

Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Irukkangudi
Sattur Taluk, Virudhunagar Dist. Tamil Nadu.

R.C.No.207/2022 A4 **Notice of Public Auction / Tender opening for Collection of Tonsured Human Hair and Sale of Prasadham for Fasli 1432** dt.17.05.2022

Sl. No	Details	Deposit Amount Rs.	Solvency Amount Rs.	Additional Amount of Deposit in lieu of Solvency
1.	Licence for the collection of Tonsured Human Hair for the Fasli 1432 (01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023) Mottai prarthana of Devotees)	2,00,00,000/-	2,00,00,000/-	2,00,00,000/-
2.	Licence for the Sale of Prasadham for Fasli 1432 (1.7.2022 to 30.06.2023)	20,00,000/-	20,00,000/-	20,00,000/-

Last date for sales of Tender form : 08.06.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
Last date for Tender Receiving : 09.06.2022 upto 10.30 A.M.
Date and time of Auction/Tender opening : 09.06.2022 Time: 11.00 A.M.
Place of Auction / Tender Opening : Maavilakku Mandabam Irukkangudi Arulmigu Mariamman Temple.
Deposit should be made only by way of D.D. in favour of the Assistant Commissioner / Executive Officer, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple, Irukkangudi. (Payable at Sattur) Other informations can be had from the Temple office during working hours.
Irukkangudi / 17.05.2022 Assistant Commissioner/ Executive Officer. Chairman, Board of Hereditary Trustees.
DIPR / 2347 / Tender / 2022

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 14, 15 & 16/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD. JJM - 2021-22 (1) providing FHTCs (3723 Nos) and road restoration in Ananganadi Panchayath (2) in Thrikkadeeri Panchayath - FHTCs (6229 Nos) and (3) in Chalavara Panchayath FHTCs (5412 Nos). EMD : Rs. 500000 each. Tender fee : Rs. 17700 each. Last Date for submitting Tender : **08-06-2022 03:00:pm**. Phone : 04912544927. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in**, **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
KWA-JB-GL-6-220-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad

INDIAN RAILWAYS
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION
TENDER NOTICE NO. RE-MS-CIVIL- 2022-09
Dated: 16.05.2022

For and on behalf of President of India, Deputy Chief Engineer, Railway Electrification, **Chennai Egmore**, invites e-tenders for the following works. The tenders shall be submitted online **upto 15.00 hrs on 10.06.2022** through website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored and summarily rejected.

1. Tender No. RE-MS-CIVIL- 2022-09
Name of work: Providing of tunnel fittings for holding for erection of OHE bracket assembly inside of various Tunnel in connection with electrification in between Sengottai - Punalur section of Madurai Division of Southern Railway.. **Approx. Cash Value (in rupees):** ₹1,65,89,689.00. **Earnest Money deposit in Rupees:** ₹2,33,000.00/-. **Period of completion in months:** Six months.
(Item one only)

Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and the tender documents are available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and the tenderers are advised to refer the same. Tenderers are also advised to quote their rates inclusive of GST.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Railway Electrification, Chennai Egmore - 600 008
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

APPOINTMENT

INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POWDER METALLURGY AND NEW MATERIALS (ARCI)
(An autonomous Research and Development Centre of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
P.O. Balapur, Hyderabad - 500 005, Telangana
Advt. No. ARCI/HRD/Project Staff/1/2022

Engagement of Scientific & Technical Staff for time-bound Sponsored Projects

ARCI is looking to engage suitable candidates for the following temporary positions on contract basis for its time-bound sponsored projects in various emerging areas related to advanced materials:

Sl. No.	Manpower position & upper age limit (years)	No. of Posts	Essential Qualifications & Experience	Project Tenure	Monthly fixed emolument + HRA (Rs.)	Place of Posting
1.	Project Scientist-II 40 years	5	Ph.D. or M.Tech./M.E./ M.S with 3 years experience	3-5 years	67,000/-	Chennai
2.	Project Associate-II 35 years	4	M.Sc. or B.Tech./B.E. with 2 years experience	5 years	28,000/- or 35,000/-	
3.	Project Associate-I 35 years	1	B.Tech./B.E.	3 years	25,000/- or 31,000/-	Hyderabad
4.	Project - Assistant/ Technical Assistant 50 years	7	B.Sc./3 years Diploma Engineering or Technology	3-5 years	20,000/-	Chennai & Hyderabad

For detailed advertisement and online submission of application, please visit ARCI Website: **https://www.arci.res.in/careers**
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS IS 02/06/2022

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED,
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

NIT.No.08/CW/T.No.08/2022-23 **Tender Notice** Dt. 18.05.2022

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** for the following work from **Class–I** State level Civil Contractors registered in PWD/Highways/Any Department of Government of Tamilnadu, Central Government Department, Tamilnadu State Government undertaking having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto **3.00** PM on **24.06.2022** and the same will be opened on the same day at **3.30** PM.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Providing Internal Road to International Furniture Park in SIPCOT Industrial Park, Thoothukudi (Ch: Km 0+610 to 1+500).	Rs.1546.00 Lakhs (including GST @18%)	Rs.7,83,000/-*

* In the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai. (In the tenderer's Name/Firm only)

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/2369/Tender/2022 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
N.I.T. No. 03/2022-23

Tenders are invited from reputed contractors registered in appropriate class with RRVPNL and A or AA class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertaking and registered in GST department for the bid S.No. 01 to 2 of NIT No. 03 bid under Executive Engineer (Civil) Mertacity. All details of above NIB are available on website www.rvpn.co.in & https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN No. :- For NIB No. 03/2022-23- VPN2223WSOB00334 & 00335
RRVPN/TR-5451/2022
Raj.Samwad/C/22/1943 **Superintending Engineer (Civil), Ajmer**

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय निदेशक, पुरातत्व एवं संग्रहालय विभाग, राजस्थान, जयपुर
(दूरभाष नं. 0141- 2820360, email-dirarchraj@gmail.com)
क्रमांक: पु.सं./स्टोर/पार्किंग/ 2022/6022 दिनांक: 10.5.2022

ई- बिड सूचना

मावठा दक्षिण आमेर महल तथा नाहरगढ़ दुर्ग के परिसर में पार्किंग स्थल के लिए दो वर्ष हेतु पार्किंग ठेका कार्य हेतु अनुभवी फर्मों से ऑनलाइन बिड दो अलग- अलग प्रस्तावों में (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय प्रस्ताव के रूप में) आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	पार्किंग स्थल	बिड प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि	बिड प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन अपलोड करने की अवधि	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी बिड खोलने की दिनांक
1. 2.	नाहरगढ़ दुर्ग मावठा दक्षिण, आमेर महल	दिनांक 11.05.2022 प्रातः 10 बजे से दिनांक 31.05.2022 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 11.05.2022 प्रातः 10 बजे से दिनांक 31.05.2022 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक	01.06.2022 दोपहर 2.00 बजे

Bid UBN No. (1) AMD2223SLOB00016 (2) AMD2223SLOB00015
Detailed bid document can be viewed on/ and download from websites http://museums.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Director
DIPR/C/6761/2022

IN BRIEF

Indigenous anti-ship missile test-fired

NEW DELHI

An indigenously developed naval anti-ship missile was successfully test-fired for the first time from a naval helicopter from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast on Wednesday.

It is the first indigenous air-launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy, the Defence Research and Development Organisation said. The test was carried out from a Seaking-42B helicopter. The mission met all its objectives, it said.

Govt. launches course on emergency life support

NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry on Wednesday launched a National Emergency Life Support (NELS) course with the Union Minister of State Health Bharati Pravin Pawar stating that this will replace foreign modules for health care professionals. The course plan includes developing training infrastructure and creating a cadre of trainers to train doctors, nurses and paramedics of emergency departments of hospitals and ambulance services.

12 labourers die in Gujarat wall collapse

AHMEDABAD

At least 12 labourers were killed and over a dozen are feared trapped after a wall of a salt factory on the Halvad industrial estate of Morbi district of Gujarat collapsed on Wednesday. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh each for the kin of the victims."The tragedy in Morbi caused by a wall collapse is heart-rending. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

NHRC flags pollution effect on human rights

In advisory, it urges Centre and States to take action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday said it had issued an advisory to the Centre and State governments on preventing, minimising and mitigating the impact of environmental pollution and degradation on human rights.

The NHRC said that despite "having one of the world's best statutory and policy framework for environment protection", India was facing a serious problem of pollution and ecological degradation preventing the enjoyment of basic human rights. NHRC Secretary-General Devendra Kumar Singh has written to the Secretaries of the Union Ministries and departments, State Chief Secretaries and Registrars of the High Courts to

Governments should make efforts to ensure effective and expeditious punishment of polluters
NHRC

implement the recommendations and send action-taken reports within three months.

The advisory focuses on the punishment of polluters; prevention and mitigation of vehicular pollution; and transparent processing of approvals and clearances under environmental laws.

"The Union and State governments should make efforts to ensure effective and expeditious punishment of polluters and violators of environmental laws. These efforts should include strengthening of Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) and other regulatory authorities," the NHRC said. The commission said PCBs should create separate investigation and prosecution wings, as well as carry out regular training sessions for staff. It also recommended that "High Courts should establish Special Environmental Courts and ensure speedy trial of the cases involving violation of environmental laws".

The advisory was drafted in consultation with domain experts, it said. During a meeting of the NHRC core advisory group on environment, climate change and human rights on March 23, NHRC Chairperson Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (retd) had "expressed serious concern over the degrading environment, and said that despite rules and laws, the ground situation was not improving", the statement read.

Past seven years warmest: WMO

'Extreme weather led to economic damage, worsened food, water security'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The past seven years were the warmest on record, and 2021 did not see record-breaking temperatures because of a La Niña event at the start and end of the year, according to a report by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on Wednesday.

La Nina is a cooling of surface temperatures in the Central Pacific. While this had a temporary cooling effect, it did not reverse the overall trend of rising temperatures. The average global temperature in 2021 was about 1.11 (± 0.13) degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

Record heat

The report comes even as north, central and western India reel under an onslaught of pre-monsoon heat waves, with temperatures in March breaching century-old records.

Wilting heat: A labourer quenching his thirst under a harsh sun in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea-level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021, according to the report. Extreme weather led to economic damage estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars and triggered shocks for food, water security and displacement that worsened in 2022.

"Renewables are the only path to real energy security, stable power prices and sustainable employment opportunities. If we act together, the renewable energy transformation can be the peace project of the 21st century," said Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The world must act in this decade to prevent ever worsening climate impacts and to keep temperature increase to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, he said.

"It is just a matter of time before we see another warmest year on record," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"Our climate is changing before our eyes. The heat trapped by human-induced greenhouse gases will warm the planet for many generations to come. Sea-level rise, ocean heat and acidification will continue for hundreds of years, unless means to remove carbon from the atmosphere are invented. Some glaciers have reached the point of no return and this will have long-term repercussions in a world in which more than 2 billion people already experience water stress."

The WMO report added that ocean surface temperatures were at a record high. The upper 2,000-metre depth of the ocean continued to warm in 2021 and would continue to do so in the future – a change which is irreversible on centennial to millennial time scales.

Congress slams Centre over inflation

Comparing situation through graphs, India looks a lot like Sri Lanka, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is a looking a lot like Sri Lanka and no distraction will help the economy, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday, even as his party slammed the Narendra Modi government for "record breaking" wholesale inflation.

"Distracting people won't change the facts. India looks a lot like Sri Lanka," Mr. Gandhi tweeted, with graphs comparing the situation between the two countries on three different parameters.

Rahul Gandhi

The first graph showed the almost identical pattern of unemployment going up from 2017, peaking around 2020 and then marginally dipping in 2021.

The second graph showed petrol prices following a similar trajectory in both the countries; the third graph pointed to a sharp rise in communal violence in 2020-21.

Mr. Gandhi attributed his comparative analysis to data to sourced from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, unstarred questions in the Lok Sabha, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

At a press briefing, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said unbridled rise in the cost of food and fuel had pushed wholesale price inflation to 30-year high at 15.08%.

"Food prices are up nearly 8.5% and as a direct consequence of low wages and unemployment. From this very platform, we want to tell the government, instead of resorting to weapons of mass distraction, you might as well focus on the one issue that matters and that is to rein in high prices because this impacts every individual," Ms. Shrinate said.

On the draw

Rajnath Singh takes a sortie on P-8I maritime aircraft

He witnessed patrol plane's warfare capabilities, says Navy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during his visit to Mumbai, undertook a sortie on an Navy P-8I maritime patrol aircraft and witnessed first-hand its long range surveillance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

"During the mission, long-range surveillance, electronic warfare, imagery intelligence, ASW missions and search and rescue capabilities employing the state-of-the-art mission suite and sensors were demonstrated," the Navy said. The flight crew for this sortie comprised two pilots and seven naval air operations officers, including three women officers, it said.

The induction of the P-8I aircraft began from 2013.

The induction of P-8I aircraft from 2013 has significantly enhanced Indian Navy's persistent surveillance operations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), it noted. The P-8I's state-of-the-art sensors such as multi-mode radars, electronic intelligence system, sonobuoys, electro-optic, infrared camera and advanced weapons provide the Indian Navy with a very potent platform with significant capability to deter and destroy.

These aircraft have been utilised along the International Border, the Line of Control and the Line of Actual Control to keep an eye on adversaries' movement, an official noted.

₹138 cr. to upgrade IB's counter-terrorism grid

Move comes months after Amit Shah reviewed the functioning of the multi-agency centre

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned ₹138.48 crore to the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a "technical upgrade", a senior government official said. The funds are meant to upgrade the multi-agency centre (MAC), a common counter-terrorism grid under the IB conceptualised in 2001 after the Kargil war.

The money was sanctioned months after Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the functioning of the MAC with State Director-General of Police (DGP), the IB, the Army and other security agencies in a pan-India meeting in January stressing on the "need for better coordination and synergy among the Central and State security agencies in countering the ever-changing counter terrorism and security challenges".

The Ministry stresses better coordination to counter security challenges.

Ashok Prasad, former Special Secretary, MHA said that the idea behind the MAC was to create an institutional memory on terrorism and act as a platform to analyse the information on terror-related activities. The former IB officer said that the first software for MAC was designed in-house.

An official said the MAC had the main server in Delhi which is linked to the subsidiary multi-agency centre (SMAC) under the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIBs) in all States, which further disseminates information to the intelligence branch or wing of the respective State police forces.

Plans are now afoot to link it to the district office of the Superintendent of Police which has been pending for more than a decade now.

"Intelligence agencies do not have investigating powers, it can only be done by the local police. If MAC is linked to the district SP's office, relevant information on terror can be fed in the system leading to the expansion of terror database," Mr. Prasad said.

Common pool

An official explained that MAC collated information from multiple agencies and put it in a common pool for the users to access the relevant information.

"Not every one can access the information. If an agency has found a suspicious number, it can run a search on the MAC platform and if the number is already stored in the database, the agency will be directed to the official concerned. The agency will then have to contact the official to get more details on the particular number," the official said.

As many as 28 organisations including the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), armed forces and State police are part of the platform and various security agencies share real time intelligence inputs on MAC. There are around 400 secured sites connected with the MAC headquarters.

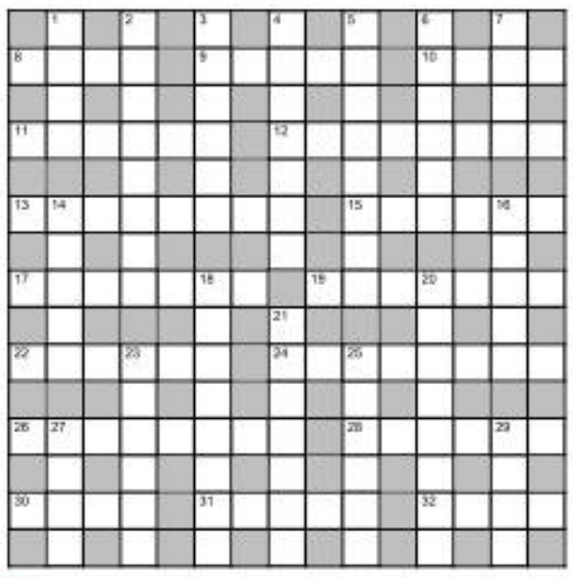
A parliamentary standing committee report in 2020 had observed that the contribution made over the years by State agencies is lower in the overall inputs that have been received at MAC.

THE CROSSWORD + 13560

(set by Incognito)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

8 Big embrace by European (4)
9 Say monotonously, "Performed around middle of March" (5)
10 More than 6 balls (4)
11 Current producer may nod animatedly (6)
12 Animals lost at last in development of marshes (8)
13 Unmarried lady goes around with the exotic Roman in the beginning (8)
15 Indian duck's infatuated (2,4)
17 Taller gymnast has reason for discomfort (7)
19 This kind of person probably knows what you are going to say... (7)
22 Ashraf Ghani's nationality (6)
24 Perhaps, what was done to the toast, say, in resting place (8)
26 Capital relative possesses in South Africa (8)
28 Concurred, "A sin!" (6)
30 Thomas gets English book that is rather large (4)
31 Animals take in a bit of nourishment and grind (5)
32 Bone found in Gokul Nagar (4)

DOWN

1 Occupied vehicle with Yankee (4)
2 German apprentice gives up right for person in custody (8)
3 A medico starting to intubate in operation theatre is adept (6)
4 Present at this place? Not at any location! (7)
5 Mike excitedly dreams about starting to interview legendary ladies (8)
6 Left aluminium door (6)
7 Don's attire (4)
14 Head of Intelligence in Chinese army gets fine rice dish (5)
16 Say, "Sin to consume egg" (5)
18 Grenade exploded around maiden and armed policeman in France (8)
20 Arranged free lunch after nomad leader leaves. Happy? (8)
21 Gets insurance after boat is damaged (7)
23 Rush! Possesses one short to make a team (6)
25 Model has setter thrown in river (6)
27 Decrease morphine production without using chopped up hemp (4)
29 Alien gets sodium in volcano (4)

SUDOKU

					7			
	9				1	7	4	3
6	7	3		9		8		
	1							4
		4				9		
7							8	
		9		2		3	1	6
3	2	8	9				5	
			4					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13559

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	8	7	2	1	5	4	9
5	1	7	6	4	9	8	2	3
4	2	9	8	3	5	6	1	7
2	8	5	9	7	3	1	6	4
1	7	3	4	8	6	2	9	5
9	6	4	5	1	2	7	3	8
7	5	1	3	6	4	9	8	2
8	4	2	1	9	7	3	5	6
3	9	6	2	5	8	4	7	1

FAITH

Beyond philosophy

Vallalar, the 19th century saint of Tamil Nadu, gave the world a simple and practical philosophy. He advocated compassion towards all living things. He said love is God. The general perception of education is that it helps us find jobs and that by doing so, it ensures our material welfare. But Vallalar had a different description of education, elaborated Malayaman in a discourse. Vallalar said that only learning which is not time bound is true education. Thus only spiritual learning qualifies to be called education. Jnana is the realisation that God is One. Understanding oneself is also jnana. Vallalar saw God as an eternal light.

He did not restrict himself to philosophical observations. He examined day-to-day life in all its aspects. Vallalar said the medium of instruction in schools must always be the mother tongue. In an article in a monthly titled *Siddhanta Deepika*, he said that learning in Tamil would help students analyse what they studied. Besides, it was easy to learn in Tamil, he pointed out.

Vallalar said that a society which did not shun learning in the mother tongue would prosper. At the same time, one should also learn other languages, and if a society learnt to treat other languages with respect and learnt them, it would reach great heights. He spoke of the antiquity of the Tamil language. He said that it was one of the oldest languages in the world. He popularised Thirukkural. He was the first to organise Thirukkural lessons, through his student Thozhuvur Velayudha Mudaliar. He spoke against British rule, describing it as governance without mercy.

Vallalar was multi-faceted. He was not only a philosopher and reformer, but also had deep knowledge of Siddha medicine, the traditional method of treating ailments.

Finland, Sweden apply to join NATO

We all agree this is a historic moment which must be seized, says alliance chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Finland and Sweden on Wednesday submitted a joint application to join NATO as Russia's invasion of Ukraine forces a dramatic reappraisal of security in Europe.

The reversal of the Nordic countries' long-standing policy of non-alignment came as Ukraine opened the first war crimes trial of a Russian soldier since the invasion began. At NATO headquarters in Brussels, alliance chief Jens Stoltenberg formally received the applications from the Finnish and Swedish Ambassadors, calling them "an historic step".

"All allies agree on the importance of NATO enlargement. We all agree that we must stand together and we all agree that this is a historic moment which we must seize," he said.

The membership push could represent the most significant expansion of NATO in decades, doubling its border with Russia. But the applications face resistance from NATO member Turkey, which accuses the Nordic neighbours of harbouring anti-Turkish extremists.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the Nordic applications would not have been expected a short time ago, "but Putin's appalling ambitions have transformed the geopolitical contours of our continent".

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused Kyiv of a "complete lack of will" towards peace talks, after Ukrainian negotiator Mykhaylo Podolyak said stop-start dialogue was "on hold", having failed to yield any breakthroughs.

Despite their last-ditch resistance in places such as Mariupol, Ukrainian forces are retreating across swathes of the eastern front.

Heralding change: Finland Prime Minister Sanna Marin shaking hands with Italian Premier Mario Draghi at the end of their joint press conference at Chigi palace in Rome on Wednesday. • AP

Russian soldier pleads guilty in trial

REUTERS
KYIV

A Russian soldier accused of war crimes in Ukraine pleaded guilty on Wednesday to killing an elderly unarmed civilian.

Vadim Shishimarin, a 21-year-old Russian tank commander, entered his plea in a Kyiv district court hearing its first war crimes trial against a Russian soldier who took part in Moscow's February 24 invasion.

In the trial, Mr. Shishimarin is charged with murdering a 62-year-old civilian in the Ukrainian village of Chupakhivka on February 28. If convicted, he faces up to life imprisonment.

Ukraine has accused Russia of atrocities and brutality against civilians.

Erdogan links Sweden NATO bid to return of 'terrorists'

He says Sweden and Finland harbour 'terrorist' groups

REUTERS
ANKARA

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday Sweden should not expect Turkey to approve its NATO bid without returning "terrorists", and Swedish and Finnish delegations should not come to Turkey to convince it to back their NATO bids.

Earlier, Finland and Sweden formally applied to join the NATO alliance, with the accession process expected to take only a few weeks despite Turkey's objections.

"We have such a sensitivity as protecting our borders from attacks by terrorists organisations," Mr. Erdogan told MPs from his AK Party in parliament.

Mr. Erdogan said NATO allies had never supported Turkey in its fight against Kurdish militant groups, including the Syrian Kurdish YPG. "NATO expansion is only meaningful for us in proportion to the respect that will be shown to our sensitivities," he said.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Ankara says Sweden and Finland harbour groups it deems terrorists, namely the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group and followers of Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara accuses of orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt in the country.

Turkish state broadcaster *TRT Haber* said on Monday that Sweden and Finland had not granted approval for the repatriation of 33 people that Turkey requested.

Later on Wednesday, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin had a series of telephone conversations with advisers to the heads of state and Foreign Ministries of Germany, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During these talks, Mr. Kalin indicated that Turkey was waiting for "concrete steps" to address its concerns about its national security". In the event of "non-fulfilment of Turkey's expectations", the accession process of the two Nordic countries "cannot move forward," Mr. Kalin added.

Tamil war victims remembered

A memorial event was held in Colombo's Galle Face, the site of anti-govt. protests

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Scores of people on Wednesday gathered in Mullivaikkal village, in Sri Lanka's northern Mullaitivu district, to remember the tens of thousands of Tamil civilians who were killed in the final stages of the civil war in May 2009, when the armed forces crushed the LTTE.

Simultaneously, dozens came together expressing solidarity in a rare public remembrance event in capital Colombo, at Galle Face, the ocean front where citizens' groups are protesting for 40 days now, asking President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to quit over the economic crisis stifling the country.

Although small, the commemoration in Colombo assumed significance, amid sharp divisions in how the Sinhala-majority south and Tamil majority north perceive the civil war's end.

Civilian deaths

While the UN has recorded at least 40,000 civilian deaths in the final stages of the war, many in the island's south are yet to confront hard questions about the Sri Lankan military's alleged human rights abuses at the time, that too targeting civilians reportedly directed to a 'No fire zone'. Their popular narrative conflates the LTTE with Tamil civilians, hails soldiers as "heroes" for crushing the outfit, and celebrates the end of the war as the military's "victory".

The divide has starkly manifested in the war anniversaries observed since 2009 – with some citizens reliving the enormous pain of losing their loved ones, and others cheering Sri Lankan troops marching down the very same *Galle Face* promenade in "victory day" parades.

Today, the stretch in the international spotlight is for other reasons. Citizens, mainly Sinhalese, are mounting unprecedented resistance against the Rajapaksas, who they blame for the economic meltdown. The ruling clan, once revered for "defeating" the LTTE in war, is now widely detested. But President Gotabaya Rajapaksa seems determined to stay in office, despite other resignations including that of his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who stepped down as Prime Minister on May 9.

In a 'War heroes' day message on Wednesday, President Gotabaya said there is "no doubt that various local, foreign groups and individuals are trying to use" the economic and political crisis "as a pretext to influence" national security. "We must defeat it together. Only then will the courageous war hero's commitment to the country be preserved," he said in a statement.

Cutting across: A Buddhist monk and a priest with protestors at a memorial for Tamils in Colombo on Wednesday. • AFP

Remembering victims

"Let's remember our Tamil brothers and sisters who died, or were forcibly disappeared on this day in Mullivaikkal," said Fr. Jeewantha Peiris at the remembrance event at Galle Face, where participants drank *kanji* or porridge in coconut shells, as many Tamils did while living precariously amid indiscriminate shelling. Participants made speeches in English, Tamil, and Sinhala, as they expressed solidarity with the victims and their families.

"This is a very significant moment, as some Sinhalese have also joined this event in solidarity with Tamil families in Mullivaikkal remembering those killed during the war. Conversations about how we address our troubled past, how we confront questions of justice and accountability are just beginning," said lawyer Swasthika Arulingam.

Tamil lawmaker from Batticaloa Rasamanickam Shanakiyan termed the commemorative event in Colombo "a great leap" in reconciliation efforts.

"The memorial held at #GGG [Gota go gama or village] to commemorate the lives lost & families affected in #Mullivaikkal 13 yrs ago today is a great leap in the reconciliation efforts as it acknowledges the pain Tamils in Sri Lanka went through during the war.

We are hopeful about an equal and just future," he said in a tweet on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Tamil families commemorated their loved ones in Mullivaikkal, offering flowers and lighting lamps in their memory. In the 13 years since the war ended, Tamils have frequently raised concerns over heightened surveillance and intimidation around memorial events. Last year, a plaque erected in Mullaitivu was found vandalised, while authorities bulldozed a memorial on the University of Jaffna campus.

'959 Ukrainian soldiers surrendered'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that 959 Ukrainian soldiers had surrendered this week at the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol.

"Over the past 24 hours, 694 militants surrendered, including 29 wounded," the Ministry said in its daily briefing on the conflict. "In total since May 16, 959 militants surrendered, including 80 wounded."

It said those requiring medical treatment were taken to a hospital in the town of Novoazovsk in Russian-controlled territory.

Russia expels dozens of Italian, French and Spanish diplomats

France had kicked out 41 members of Russian missions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Moscow on Wednesday kicked out diplomats from France, Italy and Spain in retaliation for the expulsion of Russian diplomats from European countries as part of a joint action against Russia's campaign in Ukraine.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement it was expelling 34 "employees of French diplomatic missions" in Russia and gave them two weeks to leave the country.

Moscow made the announcement after summoning France's Ambassador to Russia, Pierre Levy, and telling him that the expulsion of 41 employees of Russian diplomatic missions was a "provocative and unfounded decision", the statement said.

'Negative impact'

The Ministry later said that 27 employees of the Spanish Embassy in Moscow and the Spanish Consulate General in Saint Petersburg "have been declared *persona non grata*" and will have seven days to leave Russia.

The Ministry told Spanish Ambassador Marcos Gomez Martinez that the expulsion of Russian diplomats from Madrid "would have a negative impact on Russian-Spanish relations".

While there was no official statement, the Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova confirmed to Russian news agencies that 24 Italian diplomats had also been expelled. The Foreign Ministry in Paris said France "strongly condemns" the expulsion of its diplomats by Russia, adding that this step from Moscow had "no legitimate basis".

Pak. Taliban extend truce for more talks

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistani Taliban on Wednesday said they are extending a cease-fire with the government until May 30, after the two sides held an initial round of talks in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Mohammad Khurasani, the spokesman for Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) said the talks were being facilitated by Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

The TTP is separate but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban. The TTP have long fought for stricter enforcement of Islamic laws in Pakistan, the release of their members in government custody, and a reduction of military presence in the country's tribal regions. They have been emboldened by the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan.

Khurasani said the TTP agreed to extend the ceasefire, which began on May 10, at the request of a delegation of Pakistani tribal elders who separately met with the TTP this week.

U.S. yet to provide data on plane crash: China

Media report had given out new info

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

China said on Wednesday that U.S. investigators haven't released any information about the cause of a China Eastern Airlines jetliner crash in March after *The Wall Street Journal* reported its flight data recorder indicated someone pushed the Boeing 737-800 into a steep dive.

American investigators confirmed to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) that they released no information to reporters, the government newspaper *Global Times* reported. Phone calls to CAAC weren't answered.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin, referred reporters to the *Global Times* report in response to requests for information about the investigation.

All 123 passengers and nine crew members were killed on March 21 when the plane dived from about 8,800 metres while flying from Kunming in China's southwest to Guangzhou near Hong Kong. Debris was scattered across a mountainous area.

All 123 passengers and nine crew members were killed in the crash on March 21.

'Controls fiddled with'

The *Journal*, citing people familiar with U.S. officials' preliminary assessment, said the data recorder suggests inputs to the controls pushed the plane into the fatal dive. It said American investigators were looking at the actions of a pilot and there also was a possibility someone else could have broken into the cockpit and caused the crash.

Iran hostage taker kills three persons

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

A disgruntled employee of a huge Iranian foundation killed three of his colleagues before taking his own life in a workplace hostage drama on Wednesday, state media reported.

The hostage taker struck in the western city of Ilam in the city centre offices of the Foundation of the Oppressed, a massive holding company. The foundation has been under U.S. sanctions since November 2020.

"A 37-year-old employee of the Foundation of the Oppressed in Ilam, armed with a Kalashnikov rifle and two grenades, took staff hostage in one of the offices," the state broadcaster said.

"He then started shooting and threw a grenade that instantly killed two women and a man, and wounded seven others."

"The assailant committed suicide after the police and security officers arrived at the scene and tightened the siege," it added.

MARKET WATCH

	18-05-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,209	-0.20
US Dollar	77.61	-0.21
Gold	50,037	-0.48
Brent oil	109.65	-2.79

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	759.80	15.05
Apollo Hosp	3735.00	-78.15
Asian Paints	3100.10	50.10
Axis Bank	659.45	4.50
Bajaj Auto	3791.20	48.30
Bajaj Finserv	12762.15	-209.95
Bajaj Finance	5815.20	-22.10
Bharti Airtel	696.15	-10.90
BPCL	331.90	-10.55
Britannia Ind	3394.35	25.50
Cipla	957.10	19.10
Coal India	185.55	1.00
Divis Lab	4366.70	63.35
Dr Reddys Lab	3905.80	1.80
Eicher Motors	2696.00	-10.70
Grasim Ind	1487.35	5.95
HCL Tech	1073.70	-9.20
HDFC	2184.55	-6.00
HDFC Bank	1313.90	-0.10
HDFC Life	550.00	-4.85
Hero MotoCorp	2539.00	15.50
Hindalco	436.10	7.70
Hind Unilever	2291.40	46.40
ICICI Bank	707.35	-2.65
Indusind Bank	903.15	-0.70
Infosys	1509.20	-9.25
ITC	266.80	2.10
JSW Steel	631.05	-10.80
Kotak Bank	1846.80	6.50
L&T	1572.50	-31.60
M&M	913.30	2.50
Maruti Suzuki	7566.55	33.75
Nestle India Ltd.	16343.60	20.20
NTPC	148.50	-2.00
ONGC	163.20	0.05
PowerGrid Corp	227.90	-10.75
Reliance Ind	2538.35	9.20
SBI Life	1073.90	3.50
State Bank	458.00	-9.30
Shree Cement	22501.30	465.50
Sun Pharma	899.15	7.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	754.30	20.05
Tata Motors	415.15	-9.00
Tata Steel	1180.25	-8.45
TCS	3448.80	-2.80
Tech Mahindra	1172.05	-26.15
Titan	2166.75	-9.60
UltraTech Cement	6233.75	126.00
UPL	821.10	3.75
Wipro	481.25	-5.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.38	77.70
Euro	81.45	81.78
British Pound	96.10	96.50
Japanese Yen (100)	59.92	60.17
Chinese Yuan	11.48	11.53
Swiss Franc	77.70	78.02
Singapore Dollar	55.82	56.06
Canadian Dollar	60.35	60.60
Malaysian Ringitt	17.59	17.68
Australian Dollar	54.36	54.59

Source:Indian Bank

IOB's Q4 net jumps 58% to ₹552 cr., recoveries aid

MUMBAI

IOB reported a 58% jump in net profit to ₹552 crore in the March quarter, aided by lower provisioning for bad loans and better recoveries. PTI

'Rate increases need to be frontloaded'

MPC's Varma sees need for more than 100 bps rate increases 'very soon', minutes of MPC meet show

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

'Several storms hitting together', resulting in inflation risks that had become more pronounced and persistent, prompted the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to meet off-cycle and effect a course correction, the minutes of the May 2-4 meeting released on Wednesday show.

"As several storms hit together, our monetary policy response should be seen as an important step to steady the ship," Governor Shaktikanta Das said at the meeting, where the MPC decided to raise the policy repo rate by 40 basis points (bps). "Waiting for one month till the June MPC would mean losing that much time while war related inflationary pressures accentuated. Further, it may necessitate a much stronger action in the June MPC which is avoidable," Mr. Das had noted, explaining the urgency to act.

Time to act: With inflation risks more pronounced, persistent, there was an 'acute need' to raise rates. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Emphasising that the MPC's monetary policy actions were aimed at lowering inflation and anchoring inflation expectations, he said the decisions would help "strengthen the medium-term growth prospects of the economy and protect the purchasing power of the weaker sections of society".

"Just as we had remained steadfastly vigilant and responded to fragilities in growth caused by the pandemic... this time around also we will remain equally resolute and committed to bringing back inflation closer to the target through all possible instruments at our disposal," Mr. Das stressed.

'Catching up to do'

Jayanth R. Varma, an external member of the MPC, who has consistently articulated views at divergence with the rest of the six-member panel, remarked that the MPC was "now at liberty to consider the rate increase that it could have done in April itself in the absence of the February forward guidance".

Observing that inflation risks had become more pronounced both in magnitude and persistence since April, even as the growth shock appeared to be less severe than he had feared initially, Mr. Varma said, "the need for monetary tightening has become much more acute. Moreover, there is a lot of catching up to do".

"It appears to me that more than 100 basis points of rate increases needs to be carried out very soon. My preference therefore is for a 50 basis points increase in the repo rate," Mr. Varma said, opining that it would be simpler and clearer to move the rate in multiples of 25 bps than to opt for a 40 bps rate increase as the majority had advocated. However, he opted not to dissent and voted in line with the rest.

Das urges banks to watch global scene, ease impact

Take proactive steps, says RBI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has asked banks to remain watchful of the ongoing geopolitical developments and proactively take mitigating measures, including raising capital, to minimise the potential impact on their balance sheets.

Shaktikanta Das

The Governor, along with other RBI officials, met with MD and CEOs of select public and private sector banks on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

In his remarks, Mr. Das noted the 'key role' played by the banks in supporting the economy throughout the pandemic. Further, he said the banking sector had stayed resilient and had continued to improve despite facing various headwinds.

"He advised the banks to remain watchful of recent geopolitical developments and take mitigating measures proactively, including raising of capital for ensuring that the potential impact on their balance sheets are minimised," the RBI said.

S&P cuts FY23 India growth forecast to 7.3%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday cut India's growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.3% from 7.8% earlier on rising inflation and the longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In its Global Macro Update to Growth Forecasts, S&P said inflation remaining higher for long is a worry, which required central banks to raise rates more than what was currently priced in, risking a harder landing, including a larger hit to output and employment.

S&P had in December last year pegged India's GDP growth in the 2022-23 fiscal, which began on April 1, 2022, at 7.8%.

Cabinet lets PSU boards act to divest, close units

'Move will help cut wasteful spending'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a bid to speed up the disinvestment process of public sector enterprises (PSEs), the Cabinet on Wednesday empowered PSE boards to take a call on selling stakes in joint ventures and subsidiaries, as well as deciding on closure of units.

• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"The process for undertaking the strategic disinvestment transactions, closures to be followed by the PSEs should be open, based on the principles of competitive bidding and consistent with the guiding principles," the government said.

The principles for strategic disinvestment would be laid down by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management while norms for closures would be laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises.

"In line with the spirit of the new PSE policy, 2021, to minimise presence of Government PSEs and for functional requirement, further delegation" had been provided, it said. This would enable firms to close loss-making and inefficient ventures at the right time.

IndiGo names KLM's Pieter Elbers as CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Wednesday appointed Pieter Elbers as its next CEO. Mr. Elbers currently helms Dutch airline KLM, and will replace Ronojoy Dutta, 71, who retires on September 30.

Mr. Elbers has been the President and CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines since 2014. He will join IndiGo on or before October 1. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Air France – KLM Group.

Mr. Dutta was named IndiGo's CEO in January 2019, before which he served as an adviser for the restructuring of Air Canada, US Airways and Hawaiian Air. He was also President, United Airlines between 1999 and 2002.

Will cut supply if utilities stall coal imports: Centre

Blending must begin June 15: Ministry

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

The Power Ministry on Wednesday said it would cut domestic fuel supply to State government-run utilities by a further 5% if they do not import coal for blending by June 15, as officials struggle to address rising power demand.

A heatwave pushed power use to a record high in April, leading to the worst electricity crisis in more than six years and forcing India to reverse a policy to slash coal imports.

"If blending with domestic coal is not started by 15.06.2022... domestic allocation of the concerned defaulter thermal power plants will be further reduced by 5%," the Ministry said in a statement. It said State government-run utilities, most of which are debt-laden, will have to import more coal to fire their power plants due to reduced local supply if they delay placing orders and supplies do not arrive by June 15.

India had set utilities a target to import 10% of their coal needs for blending with domestic coal.

ITC Q4 net profit rises 12% to ₹4,259.68 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

ITC Ltd. on Wednesday reported a 11.6% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹4,259.68 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹3,816.84 crore during the January-March quarter of the previous fiscal, ITC said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations rose 15.3% to ₹17,754.02 crore, from ₹15,404.37 crore in the year-earlier period.

Total expenses rose 15.4% to ₹12,632.29 crore in Q4, from ₹10,944.64 crore in the year-earlier period.

Shares of ITC rose 0.72% on Wednesday to close at ₹266.50 on the BSE.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore - 560 020

No.BDA/EM/EE/ID/Tender/PRR-70/2022-23 Date:18.05.2022

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notification issued for the Development of 8 Lane Peripheral Ring Road with service road to Bengaluru City for approx length of 74 Km vide No.BDA/EM/EE/ID/Tender/PRR-30/2022-23 dated:18.04.2022 has been revised on request of bidders in pre-bid queries meeting held on 28.04.2022. **The revised dates are as follows: (1)** Authority response to queries latest by: **1st June 2022 (2)** Bid Due date: **9th June 2022 (up to 16:00 Hrs IST) (3)** Physical submission of Bid Security/Power of Attorney etc.: **10th June 2022 (up to 17:00 Hrs) (4)** Opening of Technical Bids at venue provided in Clause 2.11.4: **13th June 2022 at 11:00 Hrs IST**

Sd/- Engineer Member, BDA, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CE(E)/TZ/EE(C)-2/AEE(C)-2/2022-23/2618-20 Date: 16.05.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION – CALL 2
(E-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for Construction of Cable Ducts, Asphalt Road and other allied Civil Works for Enchancing the existing 2 X 20MVA Transformer by 2 X 31.5MVA Transformer at 66/11kV Sub-Station, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru. Approximate Cost (Including GST 18%) : Rs.41,90,000/-. Period of Work: 6 Months.

For more information regarding the subject tender can be had by logging on to website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "eProcurement-KPTCL on or after 23.05.2022.

Note: Any changes, addendum, corrigendum will be notified in e-procurement only.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec), Transmission Zone, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru – 560009. Phone: 22356320.

Government of Karnataka
Rural Development & Panchayat Department
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

No.: R.W.S.&S.D/C/EE/T.S./J.J.M./Tender/B3/2022-23/237
Date: 12.05.2022

Short-Term Tender Notice

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, Short-Term Tender is invited in single and two cover system through e-procurement portal, subject to Standard Tender Documents KW – 2 & 3 Rules from eligible class contractors registered with Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Circle, Davanagere/ Chief Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bengaluru, for 24 works of Rs. 900.40 lakhs in the limits of Chitradurga Taluk and 22 works of 926.08 lakhs in the limits of Holalkere Taluk under J.J.M. Scheme for the year 2021-22. Last date for submission of Tender: 24.05.2022 up to 4.00 PM. Date of opening Technical Bid: 26.05.2022 and date of opening Financial Bid: 06.06.2022. Details of the works are published in website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and for further information contact Executive Engineer, R.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga during office hours.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/146/2022-23

Executive Engineer,
R.D.W.S. & S. Division, Chitradurga

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
Divisional Office, Traffic Section, Shivamogga
SUDA Complex, Police Chowki, Vinobhanagar, Shivamogga-577204.

No. KST/SMG/TR/COM/408/2022-23 Date : 17-05-2022

E-Tender and Negotiation Notification No.01/2022-23

E-tender applications invited from interested parties/ bidders through e-procurement and negotiation from Dt:18-05-2022 for selecting licensees for the vacant commercial stalls at Bhadravathi, Sagara and Honnali bus stands in Shivamogga Division limits of K.S.R.T.C. E-tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for submitting online application by prospective tenderers with all the documents specified in e-procurement is 17:00 hrs on 06-06-2022. Date of opening of e-tenders is 08-06-2022 at 11.30 hrs (if there are no technical snags) and applications invited from interested parties/bidders through negotiation/sandhana is Dt: 08-06-2022 at 11.30 hrs at this office.

For more details please contact Divisional Office, K.S.R.T.C, Shivamogga Division, Shivamogga-577204 during office hours. Contact no. Divisional Traffic Officer: 7625078552, Asst.Traffic Manager: 7625078541, Eproc-Helpline : +91-8046010000, +91-8088948777.

Sd/-
Divisional Controller
K.S.R.T.C, Shivamogga Division

DIPR/CPI563/AKAR/22-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY. AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer, Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 073.

No.: BBMP/DZ/HO/PR/48/2022-23 Date:18.05.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Health Officer, Dasarahalli Zone, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the services detailed the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qnty.
1.	Providing Manpower Workers for Mosquito Control in various Wards of Dasarahalli Zone. **1)** Ward No. 12 -Shettyhally **2)** Ward No. 13 - Mallasandra **3)** Ward No. 14 -Bagalagunte **4)** Ward No. 15 -T.Dasarahalli **5)** Ward No. 39 -Chokkasandra **6)** Ward No. 41- Peenya Industrial Area **7)** Ward No.70 - Rajagopala Nagara **8)** Ward No. 71-Hegganahalli.	4 Workers for each ward
2	Providing Manpower and Auto for Power Spraying and fogging activities in **1)** Dasarahalli Sub Division, **2)** Hegganahalli Sub Division and **3)** Dasarahalli Zone on out source basis.	Auto-1 Auto Driver-1 MC Spray Man-1 for each Division

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 23.05.2022 onwards. 2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting : **09.06.2022 at 11.30 a.m. 3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **17.06.2022 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of tenders: **18.06.2022 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website :**https:/eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Health Officer, Dasarahalli Zone.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Shriram Life Insurance eyes 30% growth in FY23

Firm settled 53,800 claims in FY22

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Shriram Life Insurance Company Ltd. said it was eyeing 30% growth in business in the current fiscal.

The firm highlighted that it had settled 53,800 claims, including group claims, in FY22 compared with 25,054 the previous year and 27,184 in FY20. The amount settled against claims stood at ₹549 crore, said Casparus J.H. Kromhout, MD and CEO of Shriram Life Insurance.

He added that 91% of all non-early claims had been settled within 12 hours.

Detailing FY22 performance, he pointed out that the company had sourced 40% of its new business from the rural segment.

"We now want to scale our business faster and aiming for higher growth in the range of 30% for 2022-2023. We are also creating new business models and working on a lot of innovation," Mr. Kromhout said.

'New plan'

The CEO unveiled a new plan called Early Cash Plan, which combines life insurance protection with a cash bonus that is assured at a minimum 3.5% of sum assured, payable throughout the policy term, starting from the first policy anniversary.

There are two bonus options: the Early Cash Option ensures an annual income throughout the policy term as well as a lump sum at maturity. In the Super Growth Option, bonuses can be accumulated, resulting in a larger lump sum at maturity.

Debroy flags data on consumption spending

'Survey this year in all probability'

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

In the first official signal that the government is looking at resuming the Consumption Expenditure Surveys by the National Statistical Office, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council chief Bibek Debroy said on Wednesday the Survey would be carried out this year 'in all probability'.

Stressing that India might never have comprehensive data to measure income inequality, Mr. Debroy said it was unfortunate there had been no official data on consumption expenditure since 2011-12, as it made it impossible to assess poverty levels in the absence of such data and the lack of a clearly articulated poverty line.

Usually conducted every five years, the Consumption Expenditure Survey was last done in 2017-18 but its findings were held back, citing data quality concerns.

On a report by the Institute of Competitiveness on the State of Inequality in India, Mr. Debroy said: "Offhand... the Gini coefficient in terms of consumption expenditure would probably be at 0.35 or something like that for urban areas today, and rural would be a little bit lower". The coefficient helps measure income distribution – a score of zero indicating perfect equality in income levels, and one indicating absolute inequality.

"What data are we using? How are we measuring poverty? ... in India, we have never had comprehensive data, and we will never have data on measuring income inequality," he noted.

TVS Motor Co. unveils latest iQube EV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

Two and three wheeler maker TVS Motor Company has rolled out the latest version of its electric scooter iQube, equipped with a host of features including a riding range of 140 km on a single charge.

The company said it had unveiled three variants of the electric scooter, which would have a seven-inch touchscreen, voice assist, iQube Alexa skillset, music player, fast charging with plug and play, bluetooth connectivity among other features. The TVS iQube and TVS iQube S would be available at ₹98,564 and ₹1,08,690, respectively, on-road New Delhi.

The top-end variant's price and booking details would be announced later.

BPCL privatisation said to stall as bidders exit

'Opacity in fuel pricing is deal-breaker'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The privatisation of BPCL, which was dubbed India's biggest ever, has been stalled with just one bidder left in the fray after two others walked out over issues such as lack of clarity in fuel pricing, a top source said.

The government had planned to sell its entire 52.98% stake in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and invited Expressions of Interest from bidders in March 2020. At least three bids came in by November 2020 but only one remains now after the others withdrew from the race.

"We are in a single bidder situation and it doesn't make sense that the single bidder dictates the narrative. So the disinvestment process is stalled for now," said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The privatisation of India's second-largest state oil refining and fuel marketing company had not attracted much interest first due to the volatile global oil price scenario and later due to a lack of clarity in domestic fuel pricing.

Public sector fuel retailers, which control 90% of the petrol and diesel market, sell fuels at prices below the cost. This has forced private retailers Reliance-BP, Rosneft-backed Nayara and Shell into a situation where they either sell fuel at a loss or lose market share if they raise prices.

The government had not invited financial bids, the source said.

TMB FY22 net grows 36% to ₹822 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. posted net profit growth of 36% to ₹821.91 crore for FY22, compared with the previous year, as per the latest annual report. The bank also gave notice for its 100th Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2022.

In FY22, total business rose 8.86% to ₹78,424.65 crore. Gross NPAs as a percentage of total advances dipped to 1.69% from 3.44% Net NPAs fell to 0.95% from 1.98%. Total deposits rose 9.67% while advances grew 7.8%. At its board meeting on April 29, the bank recommended final dividend of ₹6 a share for FY22 and a special dividend of ₹4 in commemoration of the centenary year.

De Kock, Rahul and bowlers steer Super Giants into the playoffs

Lucknow openers forge a record unbeaten stand of 210; Rinku's cameo not enough as Mohsin and Stoinis keep their nerve in a thriller; Knight Riders eliminated

IPL 2022

SHAYAN ACHARYA
NAVI MUMBAI

Lucknow Super Giants survived a scare to reach the Indian Premier League playoffs with a thrilling two-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday.

After Super Giants rode on the record unbroken opening partnership between Quinton de Kock (140 n.o., 70b, 10x4, 10x6) and captain K.L. Rahul (68 n.o., 51b, 3x4, 4x6) to amass 210, Kolkata Knight Riders came within striking distance as Rinku Singh and Sunil Narine forged a 58-run stand for the seventh wicket.

With Knight Riders losing Andre Russell and slipping to 150 for six in the 17th over, Rinku (40, 15b, 2x4, 4x6) and Narine struck boundaries at will to get their team closer to the target.

With 21 needed off the final over bowled by Marcus Stoinis, Rinku hit a four, two sixes and a two before a stunning catch by Evin Lewis in the deep ended his stay. With three required off the final delivery, Stoinis rattled Umesh Yadav's stumps to send Super Giants into the playoffs and Knight Riders out of the tournament.

Mohsin Khan removed openers Venkatesh Iyer and debutant Abhijeet Tomar with just nine on the board. Skipper Shreyas smashed a 29-ball 50 (4x4, 3x6) and was involved in two useful stands – 56 for the third wicket with Nitish Rana and 66 for the fourth with Sam Billings – before being caught by Deepak Hooda off Stoinis.

Earlier, de Kock was batting on 12 when Tomar dropped a regulation catch at third-man, Umesh being the bowler to suffer. The South African made Knight Riders pay for the lapse, knocking the daylights out of the bowlers. Rahul and de Kock were involved in the highest opening partnership (210) in the league, and this was also the first time a team had batted first and didn't lose a wicket.

While Rahul held fort, de Kock went after Southee and Russell in the last two overs, scoring 46 runs. In the penultimate over bowled by Southee, the left-hander carted three consecutive sixes and Rahul one.

In the 20th over bowled by Russell, de Kock took two off the first ball before hitting a four off the next. Off the third delivery, Nitish Rana dropped a catch at deep backward square-leg and allowed the ball to roll past the boundary. de Kock then smashed back-to-back maximums off the next two as Super Giants crossed the 200-mark.

The Lucknow side seemed to have batted Kolkata out of the game, but Knight Riders almost pulled it off before falling agonisingly short.

All aggro: Rinku nearly pulled it off for Knight Riders after de Kock had powered Super Giants to a mammoth total with an unbeaten 140. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Quinton de Kock (not out) 140 *(70b, 10x4, 10x6)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 68 *(51b, 3x4, 4x6)*; Extras (w-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for no loss in 20 overs): 210.

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Umesh 4-0-34-0, Southee 4-0-57-0, Narine 4-0-27-0, Varun 4-0-38-0, Russell 3-0-45-0, Rana 1-0-9-0.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Venkatesh Iyer c de Kock b Mohsin 0 *(4b)*, Abhijeet Tomar c Rahul b Mohsin 4 *(8b, 1x4)*, Nitish Rana c Stoinis b Gowtham 42 *(22b, 9x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Hooda b Stoinis 50 *(29b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Sam Billings st. de Kock b Bishnoi 36 *(24b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Andre Russell c Hooda b Mohsin 5 *(11b)*, Rinku Singh c Lewis b Stoinis 40 *(15b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Sunil Narine (not out) 21 *(7b, 3x6)*, Umesh Yadav b Stoinis 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-6, nb-1): 10; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 208.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Venkatesh, 0.4 ov), 2-9 (Tomar, 2.4), 3-65 (Rana, 7.1), 4-131 (Shreyas, 13.4), 5-142 (Billings, 15.4), 6-150 (Russell, 16.4), 7-208 (Rinku, 19.5), 8-208 (Umesh, 19.6).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Mohsin 4-0-20-3, Holder 4-0-45-0, Avesh 4-0-60-0, Gowtham 2-0-23-1, Bishnoi 4-0-34-1, Stoinis 2-0-23-3.

Toss: LSG; **MoM:** de Kock.
LSG won by two runs.

Innings scan

LSG		KKR
30	Dots	46
13	Fours	18
14	Sixes	13
44/0	PP	60/2
10.50	RR	10.40

RCB needs to win big to qualify

ASHWIN ACHAL
MUMBAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore will need a big win over Gujarat Titans in its last league stage match on Thursday to keep its playoff hopes alive.

RCB's poor net run rate (-0.323) makes the task harder. RCB's best chance of making the cut is to put it across Titans and hope that Delhi Capitals – level with RCB on 14 points, but cushioned with a superior NRR of +0.255 – loses to Mumbai Indians on Saturday.

Table-topper Titans, which enters this fixture on the back of two comfortable victories, will provide a tremendous challenge to RCB.

GT, which has already sealed a playoff berth, has in-form batters like Shubman Gill, Wriddhiman Saha, David Miller and skipper Hardik Pandya. The bowling is led by pacer Mohammed Shami (18 wickets) and spinner Rashid Khan (16 wickets).

A 54-run loss to Punjab Kings (PBKS) in its previous outing hurt RCB's chances. Virat Kohli's poor run continued, while fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Mohammed Siraj leaked runs.

Much will depend on spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and seamer Harshal Patel, the core of the RCB attack.

RCB needs an extraordinary showing on Thursday, and a bit of luck with other results, to stay in the hunt.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	10	3	20	0.391
Lucknow Super Giants (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.251
Rajasthan Royals	13	8	5	16	0.304
Delhi Capitals	13	7	6	14	0.255
Royal Challengers Bangalore	13	7	6	14	-0.323
Kolkata Knight Riders (E)	14	6	8	12	0.146
Punjab Kings	13	6	7	12	-0.043
Sunrisers Hyderabad	13	6	7	12	-0.230
Chennai Super Kings (E)	13	4	9	8	-0.206
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	3	10	6	-0.577

After the KKR-LSG match on May 18 *Q: Qualified; E: Eliminated*

TODAY'S MATCH

RCB vs. GT
WANKHEDE, 7.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1
RCB 0 | GT 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by six wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Umran's pace distinguishes him from the rest: Bishop

The West Indies legend sees great potential in Arshdeep, Mohsin and Kuldeep Sen too

AYAN ACHARYA

Commentator and former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop weighs in on the list of uncapped Indian bowlers in action in IPL 2022 and what sets them apart.

Excerpts

Let's start by talking about Arshdeep Singh. What makes him so good at the death?

Arshdeep has good accuracy and a great feel for knowing when to bowl what type of delivery. The control he has of his yorker and change of pace is brilliant. So, knowing when to use a specific delivery or change of pace and length is what makes him stand out. He has a great feel for what a batsman is trying to do. When Punjab Kings played Gujarat Titans in a tight game on April 08 at the Brabourne stadium, Hardik Pandya was batting well and trying to see his team to victory. Arshdeep set the offside field deep with a long-off, extra-cover, and backward-point on the boundary. In addition, he had a short fine-leg and deep mid-wicket, so it was a field set for a wide yorker. Instead, he ran up and bowled Hardik the perfect bouncer, which almost cleaned Hardik up but for his excellent reflexes as a batsman. He was prodding forward expecting the full, wide ball, but Arshdeep bluffed him with the opposite delivery. Had Hardik been aware of the plan, he could easily have hooked or pulled and at worst, top-edged it for four or six since there was no protection for that shot.

Tracking the uncapped Indian pacers

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Umran Malik (SRH)	13	21	5/25	8.93	1/1
Mohsin Khan (LSG)	8	13	4/16	5.93	1/0
Arshdeep Singh (PBKS)	13	10	3/37	7.82	0/0
Kuldeep Sen (RR)	7	8	4/20	9.41	1/0

STATS UP TO THE KKR-LSG MATCH ON MAY 18

- Umran's control has improved as the tournament has progressed
- Arshdeep is accurate, knows what delivery to bowl
- There's something extra in Mohsin and Kuldeep

What impresses you the most about Umran Malik?

Malik's pace distinguishes him from every other bowler around the country and beyond now. It has been heartening watching his control improve as the IPL has gone along. He is adding control and know-how to his skill set without losing velocity. He seems to be a quick learner and is not overawed by the boundary-hitting power of the modern batsman. He gets hit for boundaries, and he keeps running in harder. That's a great attitude to have. It helps to have a short memory in the T20 format as a fast bowler.

Forget the inevitable bad over as quickly as possible and keep striving for a good performance. It is important to acknowledge that Malik is nowhere near the finished article.

Which uncapped Indian fast bowler will make you switch on the TV no matter where you are and why?

Umran Malik. But without disliking any of them, I think there is something extra in the potential of Mohsin Khan and Kuldeep Sen. It may not be in all formats and maybe just white-ball options. But in today's world of specialisation, that is no drawback.

Laxman to coach India in Ireland?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

National Cricket Academy (NCA) chief V.V.S. Laxman is likely to coach the Indian team during the two-match series in Ireland next month.

Head coach Rahul Dravid will be with the Test squad in England ahead of the series beginning with the one-off Test from July 1.

The four-day practice game against Leicester ahead of the Test will be played from June 24-27 and that coincides with the two T20s in Ireland on June 26 and June 28.

Devvarman backs Swiatek and Djokovic

Says the Pole and the Serbian come into Roland Garros in strong form

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Somdev Devvarman picked Iga Swiatek and Novak Djokovic as the frontrunners for the women's and men's titles at the French Open which begins on Sunday.

"She (Swiatek) took the tennis world by storm, winning two years back without dropping a set.

"She comes into the 2022 edition in strong form with five tournament victories and has lost just three matches this year," said Devvarman to *The Hindu* in a chat organised by Sony Sports, the official broadcaster of the French Open in India.

"The exciting thing about women's tennis is that there are quite a few one or two-time Slam winners in the draw. The likes of Bianca Andreescu, Emma Raducanu, Sloane Stephens, and Jelena Ostapenko walk into a Slam believing they can win," said Devvarman.

Most exciting talent: Devvarman believes Alcaraz is physically ready to go from three to five set matches. • GETTY IMAGES

In the men's draw, the 37-year-old former Indian Davis Cup player said Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz will be the favourites.

"Novak is coming into the French Open being as ready as he can. He did not play a lot at the start of the year and though he was the No. 1 player, he was losing normal matches. With more matches under his belt, he started playing better and even won the big one in Rome.

"We can't count out Rafa (Nadal) though he is struggling with his body. We need to see if his body allows him to do what his mind wants him to," said Devvarman.

"Alcaraz is the most exciting talent now and appears ready to win a Slam. But it is one thing to be ready to win but another to actually do it. Going from three to five sets is a different story though I feel he is physically ready."

(Watch Roland Garros 2022 live from May 22 on Sony Six and Sony Ten 2).

Woods' comeback and Spieth's Slam in focus

Ready to roll: Spieth will be keen to complete a career Slam by winning at Southern Hills this week. • AFP

PGA C'SHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TULSA (USA)

Tiger Woods and his incredible injury comeback and Jordan Spieth's quest for a career Grand Slam will seize the spotlight in Thursday's opening round of the 104th PGA Championship.

Woods, a 15-time Major champion, and three-time Major winner Spieth are grouped with four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy in a marquee trio for the first two days at Southern Hills.

Top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, 2021 British Open winner Collin Morikawa and second-ranked Spaniard Jon Rahm are among the most fancied players and are together as well, but might struggle to match the Woods group spectator count.

"Tiger's here, so nobody really remembers that I'm here," Scheffler said. "So it's all good."

Asked if he can win, Woods said, "I feel like I can, definitely. I just have to go out there and do it."

Among those trying to stop him will be Rahm, who comes off a victory two weeks ago at the US PGA Mexico Open.

"He's Tiger. He's a competitor," Rahm said. "He's going to try to win every single time and anytime he tees off, the world wants him to win."

Like Rahm, Spieth will want his name engraved on the Wanamaker Trophy. If he wins, the American will join Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen as the only players to win all four Majors in their careers.

Spieth won last month's Heritage crown and was second at last week's hometown Byron Nelson event. He expects Southern Hills to be formidable. "I think it's going to be one of the high-scoring PGAs that we've seen," Spieth said. "It's a great test."

IN BRIEF

Mushfiqur ton secures slender lead

CHITTAGONG

Mushfiqur Rahim hit a century Wednesday while becoming the first Bangladesh batter to reach 5,000 test runs, and his team then reduced Sri Lanka to 39 for two in its second innings on day four of the opening Test.

Mushfiqur's eighth century helped Bangladesh take a 68-run lead after the home side was bowled out for 465.

The scores:
Sri Lanka 397 & 39/2 in 17.1 overs vs Bangladesh 465 in 170.1 overs (Tamim Iqbal 133, Mushfiqur Rahim 105, Liton Das 88, Mahmudul Hasan 58, Kasun Rajitha 4/60, Asitha Fernando 3/72).

Anderson and Broad recalled to Test squad

LONDON

Veteran fast bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad were recalled to the England Test squad on Wednesday under new captain Ben Stokes. The squad contains two new faces – Yorkshire batter Harry Brook and Durham seam bowler Matthew Potts. AP

Ramkumar bows out of French Open qualifiers

PARIS

Ramkumar Ramanathan bowed out of the French Open qualifying event with a 6-7(6), 4-6 loss to 18-year-old French player Sean Cuenin on Wednesday. Ramkumar, ranked 178th, had knocked out ninth seed and World No. 114 Yannick Hanfmann of Germany in the opening round. PTI

Nikhat eases past Almieda, moves into the final

BOXING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Nikhat Zareen continued her dream run as she outpunched Brazilian Caroline de Almieda and won 5-0 in the semifinals of the 52kg category of the World women's boxing championships at Istanbul on Wednesday.

Two other Indians – Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen (63kg) – fought valiantly before losing their last-four bouts. They finished with bronze medals.

Nikhat executed her gameplan well, using her combinations to surprise southpaw Caroline in the opening round. The Indian moved well and landed body and head shots, including some lovely hooks, on the counter to win the next two rounds too.

Nikhat will meet Tokyo Olympics quarterfinalist Jutamas Jitpong of Thailand in the final on Thursday. Jutamas beat two-time Worlds medallist Kazakh Zhaina Shekerbekova 4-1.

Nikhat was delighted to make it to the final on her World championships debut. "I have faced the Thai boxer once and will work with the head coach to finalise the strategy. I will try my best to win the gold," said Nikhat.

Manisha went down 0-5 to Olympics bronze medallist Irma Testa. The gutsy Indian challenged the clean-punching Italian till the end before bowing out.

Parveen lost 1-4 to Amy Broadhurst, the 2019 European bronze medallist. The Irish southpaw scored through her right-left combinations while the Indian used her counterattacks.

Parveen went all out in the final round, forcing Amy to go on the defensive. That, however, wasn't enough for her.

One step away: Nikhat is cock-a-hoop after crossing the semifinal hurdle. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 6.30 a.m.

Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, day 5, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.

IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Butler delivers for Heat

MIAMI

Jimmy Butler decided to let his play do the talking as he scored 27 of his 41 points in the second half and a huge third quarter by Miami Heat carried it to a 118-107 win over Boston Celtics 118-107 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday night. AP

Bengaluru races cancelled

BENGALURU

Due to heavy rain over the last few days and inclement weather rendering the race track conditions not conducive for racing, the Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to cancel the first and second day of the Bangalore Summer Meeting 2022, scheduled to be held on Saturday (May 21), and Sunday (May 22). The War Hammer Million, scheduled to be held on Sunday (May 22) has been postponed to the fourth day Sunday (May 29).

ROUND-UP

Double for Dhinidhi

BENGALURU: Dhinidhi Desinghu completed the girls' freestyle and butterfly double over 50m in the State Mini Olympic Games here on Wednesday.

The results: Weightlifting: Boys: 49kg: S. Preetham; 55kg: Mabusab Kallimani; 61kg: Shobith; 67kg: Rithesh Y.Kotian; Girls: 59kg: Sameeksh Laxman Manmode; 59kg+: A. Amrutha.

Swimming: Boys: 200m freestyle: S. Dharshan (2:06.68s); **200m breaststroke:** J. Daniel Paul (2:44.19); **400m IM:** J.T. Surya (5:13.78).

Girls: 50m freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (27.71); **200m breaststroke:** Vihitha Nayana (2:53.90); **50m backstroke:** Nakshatra G.Gowtham (33.66); **50m butterfly:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (29.35); **200m butterfly:** Tanisha Vijay (2:37.04).

Diganth in semifinals

M. Diganth entered the SAT Sports-AITA CS7 U-14 tennis tournament semifinal with an easy 9-0 win over Vishnu Mohan on Wednesday. Matches were played in the 'first to nine games' format, a change necessitated by inclement weather.

Other results (quarterfinals): Boys: Anurag Shourya Kallambella bt Ayaan Tareen 9-3; Balaganesh Patel bt Vijay Sumukh Raghu 9-3; M. Shreyanth bt Aahil Ayaz 9-2. **Girls:** Disha Kumar bt Paavani Bisht 9-4; Archisha Ghosh bt T. Hemaja Reddy 9-6; Naba Nishan bt Aylin Miriam Cornelo 9-4.

Title race goes down to the wire

Liverpool's win over Southampton sets up exciting final round

On level terms: Minamino displayed quick feet before firing in Liverpool's equaliser. • GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SOUTHAMPTON

Liverpool took the Premier League title race with Manchester City to the final round of the season after coming from behind again to beat Southampton 2-1 on Tuesday.

Joel Matip completed Liverpool's latest comeback by unwittingly heading home the winning goal in the 67th minute, leaving Jurgen Klopp's team a point behind City with one game left for each team.

That's on Sunday, when Liverpool hosts Wolverhampton at the same time as City is at home to Aston Villa – managed by Liverpool great Steven Gerrard.

City remains the favorite but Liverpool has done its part by taking the defending champions to the wire.

The quadruple is still on for Liverpool, but only just.

Klopp fielded basically a second-choice lineup at St. Mary's Stadium, with the game coming only three days after Liverpool's energy-sapping FA Cup final against Chelsea that went 120 minutes before the Reds won a penalty shootout.

Liverpool also came from behind in its last two league games, a 2-1 win against Villa and a 1-1 draw with Tottenham.

The result: Southampton 1 (Redmond 13) lost to Liverpool 2 (Minamino 27, Matip 67).

Srikanth and Sindhu advance to round two

THAILAND OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

P.V. Sindhu huffed and puffed her way to the women's singles second round while K. Srikanth and H.S. Prannoy suffered contrasting fates in the opening round of Thailand Open here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, seeded sixth, staved off a spirited challenge from USA's Lauren Lam 21-19, 19-21, 21-18 to set up a clash with Sim Yu Jin.

Saina Nehwal battled hard for 50 minutes before losing 21-11, 15-21, 17-21 to Korean Kim Ga Eun in the women's singles first round.

Srikanth, seeded eighth, produced a gritty show to get the better of Brice Leverdez of France 18-21, 21-10, 21-16 in 49 minutes. Prannoy went down 17-21, 21-15, 15-21 to Daren Liew of Malaysia.

The results (first round):

Men: K. Srikanth bt Brice Leverdez 18-21, 21-10, 21-16; H.S. Prannoy lost to Daren Liew 17-21, 21-15, 15-21; B. Sai Praneeth lost to Kantaphon Wangcharoen 12-21, 13-21; Sourabh Verma lost to Toma Junior Popov 20-22, 12-21.

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Lauren Lam 21-19, 19-21, 21-18; Saina Nehwal lost to Kim Ga Eun 21-11, 15-21, 17-21; Ashmita Chaliha lost to Ratchanok Intanon 10-21, 15-21; Aakarshi Kashyap lost to Michelle Li 13-21, 18-21; Malvika Bansod bt Maria Ulitina 17-21, 21-15, 21-11.

Mixed doubles: B. Sumeeth Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa lost to Yuki Kaneko & Misaki Matsutomo 17-21, 17-21.

F1 not replacing Russian GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Formula One has decided against replacing the Russian Grand Prix, which had earlier been cancelled.

The announcement on Wednesday reduced the current season from a record 23 races to 22, the same as last year.

The Sochi race, originally scheduled for September 25, had been pulled from the calendar a day after Russia invaded Ukraine.

"There will be no additional Grand Prix added to the calendar to fill the gap, meaning the 2022 calendar will run to 22 races," F1 said in a statement.

Several cities had offered to host the race.

Supreme Court names CoA to run AIFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A stop-gap arrangement before becoming a full-fledged head of All India Football Federation in 2009, Praful Patel ruled the national sports body with an iron hand, often muzzling dissent, and beyond permissible tenure before he was ultimately forced out of office by the Supreme Court.

Praful Patel. • FILE PHOTO

Patel's third term in office was to end in December 2020 but he clung to a SC case, which remained pending since 2017, to extend his executive committee's term while refusing to hold elections till the issue of a new constitution was settled by the top court.

This has forced the SC to appoint a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former top court judge A.R. Dave to manage the affairs of the AIFF and adoption of its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.

The CoA will also comprise two earlier members – Dr. S.Y. Qureshi, former Chief Election Commissioner, and Bhaskar Ganguly, former captain of the Indian football team besides Justice (retd) Dave.

Gokulam Kerala scoffs at ATKMB's might

Runs out a 4-2 winner thanks to efforts from Luka, Rishad and Jithin

AFC CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Gokulam Kerala FC made its recent I-League triumph count in a big way as it comprehensively outplayed Indian Super League giant ATK Mohun Bagan 4-2 in the opening fixture of AFC Cup's group D league, at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

All six goals came in the second half with Slovenian play-maker Luka Majcen finding the net twice for Gokulam while Rishad Pazhaya and substitute Jithin M.S. accounted for a goal each.

ATK Mohun Bagan reduced the margin through Pritam Kotal and Liston Colaco, who converted two set-piece opportunities coming their way.

The big win gave Gokulam Kerala the confidence to dream about more good results in its future outings in the group. The I-League champion showed the right discipline and proper planning to first absorb the ATKMB attacks in the first half before successfully launching its offensives after the break.

On fire: Luka Majcen's, right, brace was the cornerstone of Gokulam's emphatic win. • PTI

ATKMB could well have wrapped up the match in the first half itself but for attackers like Roy Krishna and Joni Kauko missing the mark from close on multiple occasions. ATKMB suffered a setback in the 36th minute when its Spanish centre-back Tiri was stretchered off following suffering a suspected ACL injury.

Gokulam Kerala switched gears after the break and started probing deeper in the ATKMB defence. With Tiri out of action, ATKMB's defence crumbled. Luka secured the lead in the 50th minute off an assist from Tahir Zaman.

Kotal volleyed home a corner to restore parity for ATKMB in the 53rd but Gokulam replied with more intensity to make it 3-1 by the 65th minute through Rishad and Luka.

Liston Colaco scored directly from a free-kick to make it 3-2 in the 80th minute but Gokulam took the match away when substitute Jithin made it 4-2 in the 89th minute.

The result: Gokulam Kerala FC 4 (Luka 50, 65, Rishad 57, Jithin 89) bt ATK Mohun Bagan 2 (Pritam 53, Liston 80).

Delhi routs Uttarakhand

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi defeated Uttarakhand 7-2 in a Pool-H contest of the 12th Hockey India junior National men's championships in Kovilpatti on Wednesday.

In a Pool-F match, Mizoram forfeited its match against Maharashtra thereby resulting in three points for Maharasthra and a default 5-0 victory.

The results: Pool-F: Punjab 3 (Abhitab Singh, Pardeep Singh, Gurbakhsish Singh) bt Andhra Pradesh 0; Maharashtra vs Mizoram (5-0 win for former after later forfeited). **Pool-H:** Delhi 7 (Nitin 2, Rohit, Vikas, Upadhyay, Sahil Kumar, K. Rohit, Naveen Bidhuri) bt Uttarakhand 2 (Vishal Kumar, Deepak Singh Fartyal). **Earlier result: Pool-D:** Haryana 8 (Rajat, Amandeep, Ankit, Tanuj Saroha, Deepak, Vasu Dev, Gurnoor Grewal, Vikas) bt Kerala 0.

Ankita loses in first round

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Angelica Reggi beat Ankita Raina 7-6(5), 6-2 in the first round of the $60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Rome, Italy.

In a similar tournament in the US, Sharmada Balu made the doubles quarterfinals with Maria Kononova.

The results: $60,000 ITF women, Rome: First round: Angelica Raggi (Ita) bt Ankita Raina 7-6(5), 6-2. **$60,000 ITF women, Pelham, US: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Maria Kononova & Sharmada Balu bt Tiphanie Fiquet (Fra) & Akvile Paraziskaite (Ltu) 4-6, 6-3, [11-9]. **$25,000 ITF women, Monte-mor-O-Novo, Portugal: First round:** Riya Bhatia bt Sara Lanca (Por) 6-0, 6-2. **$15,000 ITF women, Cancun, Mexico: First round:** Rachel Gailis (US) bt Sravya Shivani 6-4, 6-0. **€32,160 Challenger, Francavilla al Mare, Italy: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Mats Hermans (Ned) & Alexandru Jecan (Rou) bt Lorenzo Claverie (Ita) & Manas Dhamne 6-2, 6-0. **$25,000 ITF men, Vic, Spain: First round:** Manish Sureshkumar bt Oltra Guiral Gerard (Esp) 6-1, 6-0. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Manish Sureshkumar bt John Echeverria & Mario Mansilla Diez (Esp) 6-4, 7-5. **$15,000 ITF men, Oran, Algeria: Pre-quarterfinals:** Benjamin Lock (Zim) bt Jagmeet Singh 6-0, 6-2.

India wins two more gold

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

India's domination in the Junior World Cup shooting in Suhl, Germany, continued with the team adding two gold and a silver in the 25m rapid fire pistol.

In the rapid fire pistol mixed team competition, Simranpreet Kaur Brar and Vijayveer Sidhu defeated compatriots Anish Bhanwala and Tejaswani 17-9 for the gold. In the men's team event, Anish, Vijayveer and Sameer helped India win gold in majestic fashion, outclassing Thailand 17-1, after having reigned supreme in the two stages of qualification.

In women's skeet team, Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore and Areeba Khan qualified for the bronze medal match against Germany, while Slovakia and Britain were set for the gold match.

The junior men's skeet shooters could not make an impact. Abhay Singh Sekhon had 113 for the 23rd spot, the best of the lot in a field of 64.

India took its tally to 13 gold, 14 silver and four bronze, comfortably on top of the table. Italy is a distant second with four gold and five bronze.

The results: 25m rapid fire pistol: Junior men's team: 1. India (Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, Sameer) 17 (568) 851; 2. Thailand (Waster Kongklang, Wachiravit Phuangthong, Thanawit Kruawongkaew) 1 (523) 827; 3. Norway 474 (765). **Mixed team:** 1. India (Simranpreet Kaur Brar, Vijayveer Sidhu) 17 (379) 569; 2. India-2 (Anish Bhanwala, Tejaswani) 9 (377) 559; 3. Norway 17(344) 509; 4. Thailand 11 (349) 539.

Compound archers ensure two medals

Men's team reaches final, women claim bronze

SPORTS BUREAU

Indian compound archers ensured two team medals in the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Gwangju, Korea, on Wednesday.

The men's team reached the final, while the women claimed the bronze.

The fourth-seeded India – comprising Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan – defeated Italy 235-229, USA 234-228 and host and top-seeded Korea 233-233 (shoot-off 29-26) to make it to the men's team final.

India will meet sixth-ranked France in the title clash.

Good show: Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini after making the men's final. • TWITTER/@WORLDARCHERY

In a limited field, the fifth-placed Indian women's team – Avneet Kaur, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar – got a first-round bye and beat Chinese Taipei 228-226 before losing to top-seeded host Korea 230-228 in the semifinals.

India pipped Turkey – comprising Ayse Bera Suzer, Yesim Bostan and Songui Lok – 232-231 in the bronze medal match.

In the recurve rankings, Tarundeep Rai (662), Neeraj Chauhan (651), Jayanta Talukdar (647) and Sachin Gupta (647) took the 15th, 32nd, 39th and 40th spots respectively among men.

Ridhi Phor (629), Komalika Bari (621), Ankita Bhakat (606) and Simranjieet Kaur (588) placed 14th, 24th, 43rd and 53rd respectively among women.

India was seventh with 1960 points in men's team, fifth with 1856 points in women's team and seventh with 1291 points in mixed team rankings.